United Nations

Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination

on the work of its thirty-second session

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Supplement No. 16 (A/47/16)

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ABBREVIATIONS

ACABQ	Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions
ACC	Administrative Committee on Coordination
CPC	Committee for Programme and Coordination
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ITC	International Trade Centre (UNCTAD/GATT)
JIU	Joint Inspection Unit
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRO	Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

Part One

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION ON THE FIRST PART OF ITS THIRTY-SECOND SESSION*

Held at United Nations Headquarters
from 11 to 22 May 1992

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* Originally issued in mimeographed form under the symbol A/47/16 (Part I) and Add.1.

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

1. The Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) held an organizational meeting (1st meeting) at United Nations Headquarters on 10 April 1992 and the first part of its thirty-second session at United Nations Headquarters from 11 to 22 May. It held 20 meetings (2nd to 21st meetings).

A. Agenda

2. The agenda for the thirty-second session, adopted by the Committee at its 1st meeting, is reproduced in annex I.

3. In adopting the agenda, the Committee, in accordance with the decision taken at its twenty-fourth session, 1/ decided to consider at its thirty-second session the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Reporting on the performance and results of United Nations programmes: monitoring, evaluation and management review components" and comments of the Secretary-General (A/43/124 and Add.1), as mandated by the General Assembly in its decision 46/446 of 20 December 1991.

B. Election of officers

4. At its 1st, 3rd and 4th meetings, on 10 April and 11 and 12 May 1992, the Committee elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chairman:	Mr. Kees W. Spaans (Netherlands)
Vice-Chairmen:	Mr. Yukio Sugano (Japan)
	Mr. Jan Woroniecki (Poland)
	Mr. David Etuket (Uganda)
Rapporteur:	Miss Sally E. Moss (Bahamas)

C. Attendance

5. The following States members of the Committee were represented:

Algeria
Argentina
Bahamas
Brazil
Bulgaria
Burundi
Cameroon
Chile
China
Colombia
Congo
France
Germany
Ghana
India
Indonesia
Iraq
Italy
Japan
Morocco
Netherlands
Nigeria
Norway
Pakistan
Poland
Russian Federation

Sri Lanka
Trinidad and Tobago
Uganda
Ukraine
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America
Uruguay
Zambia

6. The following States Members of the United Nations were represented by observers:

Australia
Austria
Cuba
Finland
Hungary
Ireland
Kenya
Nicaragua
Portugal
Romania
Spain
Sweden
Thailand
Togo
Tunisia
United Republic of Tanzania

7. The following specialized agencies were represented:

International Labour Organisation
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
World Health Organization
International Monetary Fund

8. Also present at the session were the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Development, the Acting Controller and other senior officials of the United Nations Secretariat, including the representatives of the Department of Economic and Social Development, the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Finance, the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, the Centre for Human Rights, the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). At the invitation of the Committee, Mr. Siegfried Schumm, Inspector of the Joint Inspection Unit, also participated in its work.

D. Documentation

9. The list of documents before the Committee at its thirty-second session is contained in annex II.

E. Adoption of the report of the Committee

10. At its 20th and 21st meetings, on 22 May, the Committee adopted the draft report on the first part of its thirty-second session (E/AC.51/1992/L.3 and Add.1-16), as orally revised and amended during the discussion.

II. REVIEW OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE COMMITTEE AND SUGGESTIONS ON THE TIMING AND DURATION OF ITS SESSION

11. At its 17th, 18th and 19th meetings, on 20 and 21 May, the Committee considered the review of the programme of work of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and suggestions on the timing and duration of its sessions.

Discussion

12. The Chairman of the Committee introduced the item and referred to Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/67 of 26 July 1991, in which the Committee was requested to review its programme of work, taking into account the review of the subsidiary machinery in the economic, social and related fields; to the increased workload of the Committee resulting from the new budgetary process introduced by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986; to General Assembly resolution 46/189 of 20 December 1991 on programme planning, in which the Assembly also requested the Committee to review its programme of work; to resolution 45/264 of 13 May 1991 on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, and particularly to the "coordination segment" of the annual session of the Economic and Social Council; and to the report of the Committee at its thirty-first session on the question of documentation, which the Committee had noted remained a cause for concern. The Chairman also indicated that two themes - eradication of poverty in developing countries and the acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) pandemic - had been selected for the 1992 coordination segment of the Council. As had been pointed out by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Development, CPC was not in a position in the current year to make an input into the coordination segment of the Council.

13. The Chairman of the Committee further stated that the request of the Council was clearly focused on the question of the timing and duration of the sessions of the Committee. A debate on the mandate or composition of the Committee was not requested. It should also be borne in mind that the General Assembly was scheduled to review at its forty-eighth session the results of the restructuring of the Economic and Social Council.

14. In order to assist the Committee in its consideration of the item, the Chairman listed the following concrete issues that he requested the Committee to address:

(a) Duration of the sessions of the Committee;

(b) Timing of the meetings of the Committee and of the Joint CPC/ACC Meetings;

(c) Question of the timeliness and availability of documentation, which should be seen as a key to the efficient functioning of the Committee;

(d) Support provided by the Secretariat to the Committee, for example in terms of the planning of documentation;

(e) Timing of the organizational session of the Committee;

(f) Current format of the report of the Committee;

(g) Inter-sessional contacts between the Secretariat and the Committee;

(h) Relationship of CPC with other committees or units, such as the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) and the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU);

(i) Questions regarding the Committee's report to the Council, its format and substance.

15. The Chairman of the Committee stressed that the inter-sessional contacts he had suggested were related purely to the question of the timeliness of the documentation. Such contacts would provide an incentive to the Secretariat for submitting documents on time. It was suggested that the bureau of the Committee, and/or representatives of regional groups, might represent the Committee in its contacts with the Secretariat between sessions.

16. The relationship between the agenda and the duration of the session was emphasized. It was pointed out that some items, for example, those on evaluation and/or coordination, or the report of the Joint Inspection Unit, could be considered every other year. While that proposal was supported by a number of delegations, several delegations questioned the approach.

17. Some delegations expressed the view that the length of the Committee's session could be reduced through efficient management of its work programme. Other delegations noted that, in fact, two or three more days would be useful. The search for consensus required lengthy negotiations. It was also pointed out that the current system of sitting for six weeks in off-budget years and four weeks in budget years was not sacrosanct. A pragmatic approach would be desirable for a variable duration in budget years, medium-term plan adoption years, and medium-term plan revision years.

18. A number of delegations stressed that the timing of the Joint CPC/ACC Meetings was inconvenient in many respects. It was noted that, in the past, such meetings occurred in July, prior to the summer session of the Economic and Social Council. It was also noted that a joint meeting immediately before or after the CPC session would have a number of advantages. It was further noted that a joint meeting at the beginning of the calendar year would facilitate timely reporting to the Council. A number of delegations were of the opinion that the joint meetings should be discontinued. Their usefulness was questionable, and they were, in any case, de facto replaced by the "coordination segment" of the Council.

19. A number of delegations suggested that a review of its role with regard to the preparation and follow-up of the coordination segment be undertaken by the Council; the Council might also wish to assess the role of the Joint CPC/ACC Meetings in the same process. A number of delegations recalled paragraphs 458 and 459 of the report of the Committee on its thirty-first session 2/ and recommended that measures to improve the usefulness of the Joint CPC/ACC Meetings should be assessed in relation to the effectiveness of the coordination segment of the Council. The desirability of holding the

Joint Meetings in the spring should be considered. Any such meetings should be held as closely as possible to CPC sessions.

20. With regard to the timing of the CPC meeting, a number of delegations noted that delaying the thirty-second session to the second week of May had facilitated the provision of most documents at least one or two weeks before the beginning of the session, which is still too late. It was emphasized that the reporting of CPC to the Economic and Social Council was the key for determining the best scheduling of the CPC session. Should the CPC report only to the General Assembly, it was clear that the end of August/beginning of September would be the most appropriate time for the Committee's meeting. A number of delegations stated that, in any case, the Committee could not meet in April because of the problem of availability of documentation. Other delegations pointed out that the availability of conference-servicing facilities was also an important factor in determining the scheduling of the Committee's meetings. A number of delegations suggested that the possibility of holding its session during August/September in budget years be explored. Other delegations pointed out that that could entail holding a short session in the spring or changing the reporting to the Economic and Social Council.

21. Questions were raised concerning the rationale for the current timing of the organizational session of the Committee. One delegation noted that representatives coming from capitals were not in a position to attend such a session when it was organized as long as a month before the substantive session itself. A number of delegations noted that an organizational session taking place a few weeks ahead would be valuable in determining the starting date of the substantive session in relation to the status of documentation and that it was not necessary to have the participation of experts from capitals at that meeting.

22. The Committee remained seriously concerned about the late issuance of documentation, which continues to have a negative effect on the work of the Committee.

23. The Secretariat stated that the difficulties in producing documentation six weeks before an intergovernmental meeting were due to several factors, including the necessity of holding consultations between several units; the trade-off, sometimes unavoidable, between timeliness and quality, and the availability of timely information. A document completed by a substantive unit eight or nine weeks before a meeting would sometimes be based on obsolete information. The Secretariat also stated that it was possible, in a number of cases, to produce short documents focused on main aspects of the analysis of a given issue and on conclusions and recommendations, while making available to the Committee supporting information through conference room papers. Further, the Secretariat noted that efforts should continue to be made for the timely production of documents in all official languages.

24. The question of secretariat support to the Committee was mentioned by a number of delegations, who were of the view that a permanent secretariat, similar to that servicing ACABQ, would greatly enhance the quality and timeliness of the services provided to the Committee. Others were not convinced of the usefulness of such a permanent support. The Secretariat recalled the distinction between the technical servicing and the substantive servicing of the Committee. The Secretary of the Committee, while ensuring

the technical servicing, was also responsible for the servicing of other intergovernmental committees. Apart from documents on coordination, now produced by the Department for Economic and Social Development, all other documents were produced by the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Finance.

25. Concerning the relationships between the Committee and ACABQ, it was noted that a comparison between the working methods of the two Committees was not very meaningful. The latter had an open-ended agenda, an open calendar of meetings and a full-time secretariat. Each Committee had its own terms of reference. It was also noted that cooperation of the two Committees, within their own sphere of competence, was highly desirable.

26. Apart from the question of the link between reporting to the Council and the timing of the CPC session, the issue of the relevance of the role of CPC vis-à-vis the Council was addressed by a number of delegations. It was noted that consideration by the Council of the CPC report was largely perfunctory. Even the parts of the proposed programme budget and of the medium-term plan, which were within the purview of the Council, were not the subject of meaningful consideration. It was also noted that the recent changes in the functioning of the Council could improve that situation. General Assembly resolution 45/264 had not yet been fully implemented.

27. A number of delegations pointed out that 1992 was an exceptional year in the sense that a number of events contributed to an increase in the work of CPC and determined the timing of the submission of documents. Such events were notably the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the restructuring of the Secretariat. It was also noted that this was a period of transition for the United Nations as a whole and that the Committee would have to respond flexibly, and in keeping with its mandate, to those developments.

Conclusions and recommendations

28. The Committee recognized that the actual length of its session was directly related to its increased workload, as well as to the quality and timeliness of the documentation. With regard to the duration of the sessions, the Committee expressed the view that it should continue to work within the current range of time allotted to its session.

29. The Committee concluded that the timing of its sessions should continue to be determined by its dual reporting to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. In principle, the Committee would meet between April and June with a resumed session in an off-budget year.

30. With regard to the organizational session, the Committee concluded that it should take place approximately four to five weeks before the opening of the annual session. This would allow the Committee to assess the status of documentation for the session and take remedial measures as required.

31. The Committee stressed that the timely submission of documents of good quality was the key to the proper fulfilment of its mandate. The Committee also stressed that most documents should be more concise and more directly conducive to the adoption of conclusions and recommendations by the Committee. The Committee further stressed that documents should be available in all official languages sufficiently in advance to be considered by all national authorities concerned in a useful manner. The Committee was of the view that a time schedule for the issuance of documents should be attached as part of the report to the provisional agenda for the following annual session. The usefulness of inter-sessional contacts between the Bureau and the Secretariat with regard to the production and availability of documents was recognized.

32. The Committee concluded that the current format of its report, which comprised a concise account of the discussion on each item and of conclusions and recommendations, should be maintained.

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

A. Programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1990-1991

33. At its 9th and 10th meetings, on 15 May, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1990-1991 (A/47/159 and Add.1).

34. The report was reviewed against the background of the discussion by the Committee of the Joint Inspection Unit report entitled "Reporting on the performance and results of the United Nations programmes: monitoring, evaluation and management review components" (A/43/124) and of the conclusions and recommendations made by the Committee at its thirty-first session on the methodology proposed by the Secretary-General for monitoring and reporting the programme performance of the United Nations (A/46/173).

Discussion

35. A number of delegations stated that the report remained inadequate and expressed doubts about its usefulness. They also stated that it did not provide Member States with an analytical insight of programme implementation. Other delegations commended the clarity of the report and noted an improvement in the information provided on the changes affecting the implementation of the programmes.

36. A number of delegations expressed concern about the large number of terminations and modifications of, and additions to, programmed outputs at the initiative of programme managers and requested assurance that there had been adherence to the provision of regulation 5.2 relating to monitoring of programme implementation.

Conclusions and recommendations

37. The Committee recommended that the Secretariat improve its planning, preparation and publication of CPC documents.

38. The Committee noted that the report (A/47/159 and Add.1) did not as yet reflect the improvements proposed by the Secretary-General in his report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session (A/46/173) as the improvements were mostly predicated on the revised format of the programme budget introduced for the biennium 1992-1993. The Committee noted that they would be reflected in the revised format.

39. The Committee stressed that future reports on programme performance should balance the current quantitative approach with an analysis that would provide more useful information on the implementation of the various activities cited in the programme budget and on the departures from programmed commitments.

40. It was agreed that there was a continued role for the counting of outputs implemented against outputs programmed in the programme budget. However, while such measures could help to identify trends in implementation rates and provide accountability, it was pointed out that the value of such statistics was limited in providing an overall assessment of the implementation of the programme budget. It was also agreed that the effectiveness of monitoring was a function of the quality of the medium-term plan and the programme budget. The effectiveness of monitoring would only be enhanced to the extent that the plan and the programme budget were specific in quantifying outputs and activities planned and financed.

41. The Committee noted that 77 per cent of the programmed outputs were implemented during the biennium 1990-1991. It also noted, however, that global rates of implementation could be misleading when all outputs were treated equally. The Committee was of the view that only through a differentiation between the diverse activities undertaken by the Organization would comparison of rates of implementation for the various activities become meaningful.

42. The rate of implementation for outputs under programme elements designated as being of the highest priority (80 per cent) was noted and the view was expressed that greater efforts should be made to implement all activities designated high priority. The Committee noted the low implementation rate for publications (70 per cent), and reiterated the need to review the publications policy of the Organization, as called for by the General Assembly in section VI of resolution 46/185 B of 20 December 1991.

43. The Committee agreed that vacancy rates for the programme budget sections reviewed should be presented in a tabular format and their implications on programme performance analysed.

44. The Committee, recalling the recommendations made at its thirty-first session, 3/ stressed the need for a closer link between programme performance and budget performance reports. The Committee also recalled, in that connection, the recommendation concerning the establishment of a system of accountability and responsibility 4/ and General Assembly resolutions 40/185 of 17 December 1985 and 46/189, in which the General Assembly endorsed those recommendations.

B. Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

General considerations

Discussion

45. The Chairman, in his introduction, recalled that the medium-term plan is a basic policy document of the United Nations and that the Committee for Programme and Coordination was requested to consider thoroughly the proposed revisions. While the Committee considered the substance of the revisions, it was also invited to pay attention to the format of the plan. In that connection, he recalled General Assembly resolution 45/253, in which the Assembly called for increased conciseness of the plan. He suggested that the

Committee consider revising the format of the plan, making it a more concise document with a strong emphasis on the policies of the Organization. He proposed that the Committee recommend to the General Assembly that the Secretariat should provide to the Committee at its thirty-third session a proposal containing a possible new format of the plan, taking into account the need to be clear about the established mandates and the policy directives.

46. A number of delegations recalled that the medium-term plan was the principal policy directive of the United Nations and that the introduction to the plan was a key integral element of the planning process. They were of the view that consideration of the proposed revisions would have been greatly facilitated if the Secretary-General had submitted a document or a statement containing a comprehensive assessment of the changes that have occurred since the plan was adopted by the General Assembly in 1990 and an overview of the objectives, strategies and priorities of the Organization in the coming years. Such a document or statement would have enabled delegations to place the proposed revisions in proper perspective.

47. A number of delegations considered that in several programmes the format and presentation of the proposed revisions did not enable them to assess the rationale for the revisions.

Conclusions and recommendations

48. The Committee took note of the statement by the Secretariat that a number of documents would be provided to the Committee at the second part of its thirty-second session and that those documents would provide delegations with an overview of the changes that have taken place recently and the new orientation and priorities of the United Nations.

49. The Committee expressed the hope that, during its resumed session, the Secretary-General would be in a position to present his views to the Committee on the direction in which he would like the Organization to go and his proposals to Member States, based on an assessment of the progress made in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 46/232.

50. The Committee recommended that the format of the revisions to the medium-term plan, to be submitted to the Committee at the second part of its thirty-second session, be improved so as to facilitate their consideration by delegations. In that context, the Committee recommended that appropriate explanations be provided for the proposed changes in respect of each programme.

51. The Committee noted that the proposed revisions to 5 of the 10 programmes submitted to it at the first part of its session had not been reviewed by the relevant intergovernmental bodies. The Committee reiterated the need to improve the consultative process with Member States and recommended that appropriate measures be devised for that purpose.

52. The Committee agreed that, while the conclusions and recommendations of the first part of its thirty-second session reflected the Committee's views on specific programmes, those conclusions and recommendations could be adjusted, if necessary, during the second part of its thirty-second session in the light of the relevant information to be provided.

53. The Committee agreed to continue to consider the issue of the format of the medium-term plan and ways in which it could become a more effective tool for programme planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation, during the second part of its thirty-second session.

Programme 25. Global social issues and policies

54. At its 12th meeting, on 18 May, the Committee considered proposed revisions to programme 25 (Global social issues and policies) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 25)). 5/

Discussion

55. While the central role of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs in carrying out research and analysis was recognized, a number of delegations emphasized the need for better reflection of coordinating mechanisms in the context of the programme.

Conclusions and recommendations

56. The Committee expressed the view that future activities that might fall under programme 25 were likely to be affected by the recommendations that the Economic and Social Council might make to the General Assembly on the convening of a World Social Summit and might require further review.

57. The Committee recommended the approval of the revisions to programme 25 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, with the following modifications:

(a) In paragraph 25.1, a reference to General Assembly resolution 46/95 of 16 December 1991 should be added;

(b) In paragraph 25.7, nineteenth line, the words "in particular with other bodies of the United Nations system dealing with the economics of social protection and social welfare" should be inserted after the words "social development activities";

(c) In paragraph 25.8, the words "Department of Technical Cooperation for Development" should be replaced by the words "Department of Economic and Social Development";

(d) In paragraph 25.11, a reference to General Assembly resolution 46/95 should be added;

(e) In paragraph 25.21, sixth line, the word "role" should read "roles"; in the tenth line, the words "as well as types" should be inserted after the word "concepts"; in the twelfth line, the words "the variety of" should be inserted after the words "understanding of";

(f) In paragraph 25.23, sixth line, the words "and its members" should be added after the words "the role of the family".

Programme 26. Integration of social groups

58. At its 12th meeting, on 18 May, the Committee considered revisions to programme 26 (Integration of social groups) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 26)).

Discussion

59. A number of delegations were of the view that, before establishing new standards, existing standards should be reviewed and evaluated. Similarly, care should be taken not to promote instruments that might duplicate existing ones. Other delegations considered that promoting international instruments was a normal function of the United Nations.

60. One delegation expressed the view that additional international instruments on the rights of disabled persons were not necessary, as existing instruments conferred rights on all people whether able-bodied or disabled.

Conclusions and recommendations

61. The Committee recommended the approval of the revisions to programme 26 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, with the following modifications:

(a) In paragraph 26.16, second line, after the words "strengthened between the", the words "the United Nations and" should be inserted;

(b) In paragraph 26.19 (b), the subparagraph should be replaced with "To formulate integrated policies, strategies and programmes based on comprehensive analyses of the impact of social and economic changes on ageing and the impact of the elderly on societies";

(c) In paragraph 26.30, at the end of the last sentence the words "in collaboration with the Department of Public Information" should be added.

Programme 27. Advancement of women

62. At its 12th meeting, on 18 May, the Committee considered revisions to programme 27 (Advancement of women) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 27)).

Discussion

63. A number of delegations expressed the view that activities related to research and monitoring exercises should be geared towards the Fourth World Conference on Women to be held in 1995. Several other delegations recommended that the revisions should reflect the results of the Summit on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women, held at Geneva on 25 and 26 February 1992.

64. A number of delegations expressed the view that the proposed revisions should reflect follow-up measures on the priority theme, "women in rural areas", as discussed by the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-fifth session.

Conclusions and recommendations

65. The Committee recommended the approval of the revisions to programme 27 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, with the following modifications:

(a) In paragraph 27.21, third line, the words "women in urban areas" should be replaced by the words "women in all areas";

(b) At the end of paragraph 27.25, the following sentence should be added: "Services will be provided to the Commission for its discussion on the possibilities of the elaboration of an international instrument on violence against women."

Programme 29. Crime prevention and criminal justice

66. At its 12th meeting, on 18 May, the Committee considered revisions to programme 29 (Crime prevention and criminal justice) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 29)).

Discussion

67. While a number of delegations expressed the view that the revisions reflected the priorities and programmes recommended by the General Assembly, some disagreed.

68. One delegation questioned the need for the creation of a new subprogramme on operational activities, planning and coordination. Other delegations supported the creation of the new subprogramme.

69. A number of delegations recommended the following changes:

(a) In paragraph 29.5, eleventh line, the words "and promoting the fundamental principles of good government" should be deleted;

(b) In paragraph 29.14, the reference to resolutions 4 and 5 adopted by the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders should be deleted;

(c) In paragraph 29.16 (e), third line, the words "relevant to the programme" should be replaced by the words "when mandated by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice";

(d) In paragraph 29.22 (b), the words "sound public administration and good governance" should be deleted;

(e) In paragraph 29.22 (c), the words "crimes against the cultural patrimony" should be deleted;

(f) In paragraph 29.23, last sentence, the words "Promotion and implementation" should be replaced by the words "Evaluation by the Commission".

Conclusions and recommendations

70. The Committee recommended the approval of the revisions to programme 29 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, with the following modifications:

(a) In paragraph 29.4, eleventh line, the words "in close cooperation with other relevant entities, including regional institutes" should be added after the words "at Vienna";

(b) In paragraph 29.5, the following text should be inserted at the end of the paragraph:

"In dealing with the transnational criminality issue, it is noted that the lowering of the world crime rate is related to, among other factors, the improvement of the social conditions of the population. The developed and developing countries are experiencing difficult situations in this respect. Nevertheless, the specific problems encountered by the developing countries justify priority being given to dealing with the situation confronting those countries";

(c) In paragraph 29.12, penultimate line, the words "and as determined by" should be inserted after the words "under the guidance of"; and the words "as appropriate" should be added at the end of the paragraph;

(d) In paragraph 29.22 (c), second line, the word "national" should be inserted before the word "services";

(e) In paragraph 29.22 (d), first line, the words "Member States" should be inserted after the words "To help";

(f) In paragraph 29.32, fourth line, the words "by the Commission" should be inserted after the word "identified";

(g) In paragraph 29.38, fifth line, the word "The" should be replaced by the word "Some", and the words "requiring standard-setting" should be deleted. At the end of the paragraph, the following sentence should be added: "The Commission shall identify those new areas requiring standard-setting".

Programme 30. Regional cooperation for development in Africa

71. At its 13th and 14th meetings, on 18 May, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to programme 30 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 30) and Corr.1).

Discussion

72. Several delegations expressed the view that the consideration of the proposed revisions to this programme suffered from the absence of an overall introduction providing an analysis of prevailing and emerging trends guiding the proposed revisions to the plan.

73. A number of delegations expressed the view that the scope of the proposed revisions to the programme was too limited and did not sufficiently reflect the mandates adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session and the conclusions and recommendations of the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) at its last session.

74. Several delegations were of the view that substantive reference to Agenda 21, to be considered at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, should have been reflected in the revisions to this programme. Other delegations felt that the drought issue should also have been addressed, in particular under subprogramme 3.

75. A number of delegations considered that the subprogramme structure should have been streamlined and that there were too many subprogrammes designated high priority. A number of delegations expressed concern that the social programmes under ECA were not receiving the requisite priority attention.

76. Some delegations considered that the revision should have highlighted the impact on the programmes of heavy reliance on extrabudgetary resources by the Commission.

77. While a number of delegations suggested that the process of regional economic integration covered in subprogramme 2 should be approached with caution, bearing in mind the benefits to be derived from a liberalization of trade, other delegations expressed the view that there was no contradiction between economic integration and free trade.

78. Some delegations remained to be convinced that the resources devoted to Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs) were productively applied. Other delegations did not share that view.

79. The view was expressed that in a number of instances the proposed revisions should be reformulated and corrected to avoid duplication in the text.

80. A number of delegations suggested the following modifications:

(a) At the end of new paragraph 30.45, the following sentence should be added: "The least developed, land-locked and island developing countries will be given special attention in intercountry technical cooperation projects.";

(b) In old paragraph 30.46, a reference to General Assembly resolutions 46/156 and 46/212 should be added;

(c) Old paragraph 30.60 should be retained;

(d) In new paragraph 30.70, at the beginning of the second sentence, the words "Such strategies will be aimed at examining" should be replaced by the words "Such strategies will be established based upon examination of";

(e) In new paragraph 30.103 (a), the word "multi-country" should be replaced by the word "subregional".

81. A number of delegations suggested that, in new paragraph 30.105, the words "and financial" should be added after the word "technical". Other delegations did not share that view.

82. The Committee noted that the social programmes in ECA were not receiving sufficient attention and stressed the need to strengthen those programmes within ECA.

83. The Committee requested that the Secretary-General propose further revisions to programme 30 and make relevant proposals at its resumed session in the light of the discussions in the Committee and taking into account the outcome of the Conference of Ministers of ECA.

84. The Committee decided to take a decision on this programme at its resumed session.

Programme 31. Regional cooperation for development in Asia and the Pacific

85. At its 14th meeting, on 18 May, the Committee considered revisions to programme 31 (Regional cooperation for development in Asia and the Pacific) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 31)).

Discussion

86. A number of delegations commended the efforts to streamline the structure of programme 31 and expressed appreciation for the thematic approach and the clustering of activities under fewer subprogrammes.

Conclusions and recommendations

87. The Committee recommended the approval of the revisions to programme 31 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, with the following modifications:

(a) Wherever the terms "countries in transition" or "transitional economies" are used, they should be replaced by the words "countries that are undergoing the process of transition to a market economy".

(b) In the penultimate line of paragraph 31.5, the words "the urgent need to address environmental issues and to achieve sustainable resource use patterns;" should be inserted after the word "investment".

(c) In the penultimate line of paragraph 31.6, the word "further" should be replaced by the word "additional".

(d) In paragraph 31.10, first and second lines, the words "particularly the Central Asian republics of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics", should be deleted.

(e) In paragraph 31.14, twelfth line, the passage beginning with "Increasing" to the end of the paragraph should be replaced by the following:

> "Increasing regional interdependence has, in fact, created both opportunities and structural problems that need to be addressed in a concerted manner. Reduction of imbalances in trade, adjustments to more open and competitive markets, and efforts to stimulate new patterns of growth are some of the issues that need to be addressed. Moreover several centrally planned economies in the region are making a transition to a market economy; regional cooperation can assist those countries to make the changes in a positive direction."

(f) In paragraph 31.15, the first sentence should be replaced by "At the global level, a certain trend towards protectionism, proliferation of trade alliances and raising of barriers against competitive exporters is discernible in the emerging trade environment." The sentence beginning "The Uruguay Round of multilateral trade ..." should be replaced by the following:

> "The outcome of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations could have a profound effect on the trade prospects of developing countries of the region by providing both new opportunities and new responsibilities for the conduct of international trade. Uncertainty about the outcome, however, has led many countries to explore alternative arrangements for promoting their trade interests."

(g) In paragraph 31.17, subparagraph (a) should be replaced by "To sustain the momentum of growth and development in the region while contributing to the alleviation of income disparities within the region;" subparagraph (b) should be replaced by "To minimize problems and to take advantage of opportunities that growing economic interdependence might provide;" subparagraph (c) should be replaced by "To manage the smooth transition of the countries that are undergoing the process of transition to a market economy in the region and facilitate their eventual integration in multilateral trade systems and in the regional division of labour;" subparagraph (j) should be replaced by "Overcome difficulties arising out of growing protectionism and other barriers against competitive exports;".

(h) In paragraph 31.25, sixth line, the words "Economic growth" should be deleted and the sentence begun with the word "Rising ...".

(i) In paragraph 31.28, the second from the last sentence, beginning with the words "The plight of ...", should be replaced by "At the same time, the plight of the rural and urban poor, as well as the lack of access of the general population and the local industry to affordable clean energy accentuates some of the supply-side management problems in the energy sector which remain unresolved."

(j) In paragraph 31.28, last sentence, the words "as well as those relating to transfer of technology and resources" should be inserted after the words "specific problems".

(k) In paragraph 31.29, fifth line, the word "mainly" should be deleted.

(l) In paragraph 31.31, after the second sentence, the following new sentence should be inserted: "The activities will also include any follow-up action on decisions and measures adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development."

(m) In paragraph 31.37, third line from the bottom, the words "living and non-living" should be deleted.

(n) In paragraph 31.46, seventh line, the words "the vulnerable sections of society." should be inserted after the words "reforms on", and the rest of the sentence should be deleted.

(o) In paragraph 31.48, after the second sentence, a new sentence should be inserted: "In this regard consideration should be given to rendering services and support to activities related to the Asia and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons 1993-2002 in accordance with resolution 48/3 of the Commission." In the eighth line, the words "In that connection" should be deleted and, after the words "Special attention will", the word "also" should be inserted.

(p) In paragraph 31.74, at the end of the first sentence, the words "compounded by the limited capacity of some transit countries" should be inserted after the words "transport problems".

(q) In paragraph 31.75, fourth line, the word "they" should be replaced by "most of these countries".

Programme 32. Regional cooperation for development in Europe

88. At its 15th meeting, on 19 May, the Committee considered the revisions to programme 32 (Regional cooperation for development in Europe) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 32)).

Discussion

89. A number of delegations expressed the view that the proposed revisions did not reflect the extent of the changes in the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region.

90. A number of delegations considered that the social implications of the transition to market economies of some countries should have been emphasized in the revisions.

91. A number of delegations were of the view that the proposed revisions should have highlighted the need to improve cooperation and coordination between ECE and other regional and international organizations.

92. Different views were expressed regarding the proposals on priorities within the programme. While a number of delegations supported those proposals, other delegations were of the view that subprogrammes 5 and 6, as a whole, should also be designated high priority.

93. A number of delegations considered that the designation of specific elements within subprogrammes 4 and 5 as priority areas was not in accordance with the provisions of programme planning regulations and rules.

94. A number of delegations expressed the view that the issue of international migration should be treated on a priority basis. Other delegations questioned whether this was indeed a valid objective to be pursued by ECE.

Conclusions and recommendations

95. The Committee recommended approval of the revisions to programme 32 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, with the following modifications:

(a) In new paragraph 32.13, the words "including a study of the potential hazard of atomic radiation on the territory of the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States in close cooperation with IAEA and other relevant agencies" should be inserted after the words "possible areas of work".

(b) In new paragraph 32.14, a reference to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe should be added at the end of the paragraph.

(c) In new paragraph 32.15, the titles of subprogrammes 4, 5, 7 and 8 should be changed to the following:

Subprogramme 4: Trade facilitation

Subprogramme 5: Economic analysis

Subprogramme 7: Development of international trade

Subprogramme 8: Industry and technology

The Committee noted that the changes recommended in paragraph 32.15 may require the Secretariat to make adjustments to the relevant programme narratives and report thereon to the second part of its thirty-second session.

(d) In new paragraph 32.16, the first sentence should be replaced by "Subprogrammes 1 to 5 are designated as priority areas of work".

(e) In new paragraph 32.21, at the end of the paragraph a new sentence should be added: "The need to develop effective ways of conserving flora, fauna and their habitats transcends the limits of individual countries and will require further cooperation for the maintenance of an acceptable regional environment".

(f) In new paragraph 32.24, at the beginning of the paragraph, the words "Bearing in mind the decisions which may be taken at UNCED", should be inserted.

(g) In new paragraph 32.28, at the end of the paragraph the words "within the context of the further liberalization of trade" should be replaced by the words "within the framework of the mandated activities of ECE".

(h) In new paragraph 32.65, second sentence, before the words "oil substitution" the words "coal and" should be added.

(i) In new paragraph 32.92, third sentence, the words "including UNEP and Habitat" should be inserted after the words "international organizations".

96. The Committee recommended that existing legislative mandates for the involvement of the Commission in international cooperation to mitigate the effects of the Chernobyl accident should be reflected in the narratives of subprogrammes 1, 6, 8, 9 and 10.

97. In view of the developments in the region, the Committee invited the Commission to keep the programme under review and to report, as appropriate, to the Committee.

Programme 33. Regional cooperation for development in Latin America and the Caribbean

98. At its 15th and 16th meetings, on 19 May, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to programme 33 (Regional cooperation for development in Latin America and the Caribbean) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 33)).

Discussion

99. A number of delegations considered that, in the light of the provisions of General Assembly resolution 46/145, a new subprogramme on regional and subregional economic integration should have been proposed. One delegation expressed the view that the resources required for the implementation of such a subprogramme should be obtained through redeployment.

100. A number of delegations were of the view that, while regional commissions could undertake activities in the area of international drug control, as referred to in new paragraph 33.69 in the revisions, the leading role of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme in this area should be reinforced.

Conclusions and recommendations

101. The Committee recommended the approval of the revisions to programme 33 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, with the following modifications:

(a) New paragraph 33.69: The text of the new paragraph should be replaced by the following: "In the context of the drug trafficking situation in the countries of the region, there is an urgent need to study and elaborate the economic impact caused by the production and trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;"

(b) New paragraph 33.70: To fulfil that need, ECLAC shall undertake any appropriate follow-up and complementary work to the recent United Nations International Drug Control Programme studies and research and analysis of the economic and social impact of drug production, trafficking and consumption and formulations of alternative development programmes to remedy this impact; provision of technical assistance in the formulation of national policies to prevent and reduce the production, trafficking and consumption of illicit drugs and psychotropic substances.

102. The Committee requested the Secretary-General to prepare a new subprogramme on regional and subregional economic integration in Latin America and the Caribbean, as called for in General Assembly resolution 46/145, and to submit it to the Committee at the second part of its thirty-second session. The objectives of the subprogramme would be to promote full utilization of multilateral and bilateral cooperation mechanisms provided for in the regional and subregional integration and cooperation plans with a view to developing trade and economic development in the region.

103. The Committee invited ECLAC, in line with General Assembly resolution 46/166, to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of its activities related to the promotion of entrepreneurship, in particular through private sector development in interested countries, through small and medium-sized enterprises.

Programme 34. Regional cooperation for development in Western Asia

104. At its 16th meeting, on 19 May, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to programme 34 (Regional cooperation for development in Western Asia) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 34)).

Discussion

105. One delegation expressed its concern about the ability of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) to implement the wide range of activities described in the programme in view of the prevailing situation in the region. Another delegation was of the view that ESCWA should strengthen the coordination of its activities with those of the other regional organizations in the area so as to avoid duplication and ensure rational use of resources.

Conclusions and recommendations

106. The Committee took note of the special circumstances of the work of the Commission.

107. The Committee recommended the approval of the revisions to programme 34 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.

108. The Committee recommended that full revisions to programme 34 be prepared in time for the next revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, to take place in 1994.

Programme 35. Promotion and protection of human rights

109. At its 16th and 17th meetings, on 19 and 20 May, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to programme 35 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 35)).

Discussion

110. A number of delegations expressed support for the work of the Centre for Human Rights.

111. While a number of delegations suggested the deletion from paragraph 35.19 of the reference to the bodies listed therein, others objected to that proposal.

Conclusions and recommendations

112. The Committee reaffirmed its previous recommendations on the strengthening of the programmes and activities of the Centre.

113. The Committee recommended the approval of the revisions to programme 35 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, with the following modifications:

(a) In paragraph 35.15, at the end of new subparagraph (vi), the words "after its entry into force" should be inserted;

(b) In paragraph 35.16, second line of the revision, the word "future" should be added before the word "Committee";

(c) In the first line of old paragraph 35.19, insert the word "special" before the word "procedures"; at the end of paragraph 35.19 add the following:

> "Such procedures include the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and other Arabs in the Occupied Territories, the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on Southern Africa, the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, and the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention. They also include currently six thematic rapporteurs, nine country rapporteurs, and nine other mandates dealing with violations conferred directly to the Secretary-General";

(d) In paragraph 35.25, the word "after" should be replaced by the words "with the";

(e) In new paragraph 35.23, the words "the rights of members of minority groups" should be deleted and the words "persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and" should be inserted after the words "regarding the rights of";

(f) In new paragraph 35.31, a reference to General Assembly resolution 46/203 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 1992/51 should be added;

(g) In new paragraph 35.32:

(i) In the fifth line, the words "which ensure the rule of law" should be inserted after the word "infrastructures";

(ii) In the third sentence, the words "The development of appropriate arrangements" should be replaced by the words "Assistance will be given to Member States to develop appropriate arrangements";

(iii) The fourth sentence should be replaced by the following: "Governments should make all efforts to ensure that all provisions contained in human rights instruments are known by those responsible for their implementation as well as by those whose rights these instruments are intended to protect. Assistance will be provided to Governments at their request in that connection";

(h) In new paragraph 35.33, first line, the words "of the rule of law and in particular" should be inserted after the word "strengthening";

(i) In new paragraph 35.35, subparagraph (a), the words "international conventions and other" should be deleted and the following words should be added at the end of the sentence: "and to make additional efforts to promote ratification of international instruments on human rights";

(j) In new paragraph 35.36, the last two sentences of old paragraph 35.35 should be retained;

(k) In old paragraph 35.36, replace the last sentence with:

"In cases where the Centre for Human Rights is called upon to service investigations into allegations of human rights violations as called for by the competent legislative bodies, advisory services and technical assistance can complement these activities.";

(l) In new paragraph 35.37, first sentence, the word "conventions" should be replaced by the word "instruments";

(m) In new paragraph 35.42, a reference to General Assembly resolution 46/203 should be added;

(n) In new paragraph 35.45, the words "genuine elections" should be replaced by the words "participation and democratization, including periodic and genuine elections" and the words "and the international humanitarian order" should be deleted;

(o) In new paragraph 35.46, in the new sentence, the words "the rights of members of minority groups" should be replaced by the words "the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities", and at the end of the third sentence, the words "as well as from the standard-setting projects regarding the rights of indigenous people and from the draft protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment" should be added;

(p) In the global strategy of programme 35, appropriate references to the follow-up measures to be taken as a result of the World Conference on Human Rights, to be held in 1993, should be included.

C. Evaluation

114. At its 3rd and 5th through 8th meetings, on 11 through 14 May 1992, the Committee considered three evaluation reports. At its 6th and 8th meetings, on 13 and 14 May 1992, the Committee considered the oral report given by the representative of the Department of Economic and Social Development as announced in the note by the Secretary-General (E/AC.51/1992/4) of 30 March 1992.

Conclusions and recommendations

115. The Committee confirmed the importance of evaluation for improving the effectiveness of United Nations programmes and for ensuring the efficient use of limited resources, and expressed satisfaction with the quality of the reports on the major programme on social development and humanitarian affairs (E/AC.51/1992/2) and the human rights programme (E/AC.51/1992/3).

116. The Committee recommended that the preparation and distribution of documentation should be further improved through better planning by the Secretariat.

1. Programme evaluation in the United Nations: assessment of evaluation activities and proposals for strengthening the role of evaluation

Discussion

117. A number of delegations considered that the report of the Secretary-General on the subject (A/47/116) contained useful assessments of United Nations evaluation activities of the recent past and suggestions for strengthening evaluation in the future. A number of delegations were, however, of the view that some parts of the report should have been more analytical and action-oriented. One delegation stated that the report lacked a "pedagogical approach" and was presented in a somewhat abstract manner. With regard to the conference room papers on new directions for evaluation in professional literature (E/AC.51/1992/CRP.1) and self-evaluations conducted during 1986-1991 (E/AC.51/1992/CRP.2), they were considered useful as reference and welcomed by a number of delegations.

118. Concern was voiced that self-evaluation had not yet been widely accepted by programme managers as a management tool, and that only a limited percentage of subprogrammes had so far been evaluated. A number of delegations suggested that the cause might have been the lack of an evaluation "culture" in the Secretariat and that, to the extent that programme managers did not conduct self-evaluations, Governments were deprived of information on the implementation of programmes.

119. A number of delegations stressed the need for both external and internal evaluations, since they tended to complement each other, but stated that more emphasis should be put on external evaluations, that is, those independent of the line of authority relating to programme managers but preferably not outside the Organization or the United Nations system.

120. One delegation proposed the establishment of an Office of Inspector-General. One delegation, in supporting that proposal, observed that there was currently no subsidiary intergovernmental machinery reporting to the General Assembly on the budget, and suggested the creation of a public accounts Committee, composed of Member States, to which all relevant expert bodies and the suggested Inspector-General should report.

121. The following topics for in-depth evaluation for 1996 and 1997 were mentioned in the discussion: environment, human rights, international trade, narcotic drugs and statistics.

Conclusions and recommendations

122. The Committee concluded that methodology for self-evaluation needed to be improved and some central standard-setting was now required, and that training in programme evaluation, including questionnaire formulation and sampling techniques, should also be improved. The Committee also concluded that findings from self-evaluation should be reported by programme managers to their respective governing bodies and that reports on the results of self-evaluations should be placed on the agendas of the specialized governing bodies concerned so that they could discuss those results. The mode of transmission to specialized intergovernmental bodies of in-depth evaluation reports, together with the relevant recommendations of the Committee, should be improved.

123. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly, when examining the recommendations contained in paragraphs 52 through 61 of the report, should take into account the following:

(a) Proposals for strengthening evaluation capacity, as suggested in paragraph 59 of the report, would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, taking account of paragraphs 348 to 350 of the Committee's report on the work of its thirtieth session in 1990, 6/ and the Secretary-General's overall restructuring plan for the Secretariat;

(b) The arrangements for requesting comments on evaluation reports from the relevant specialized governing bodies, as proposed in paragraph 61 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/47/116), as well as the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee thereon, would be adopted on a case-by-case basis, as decided by the Committee.

124. The Committee took note of the recommendation contained in paragraph 62 of the report.

125. The Committee postponed the decision on the topics for in-depth evaluation for 1996 and 1997.

2. In-depth evaluation of the major programme on social development and humanitarian affairs

Discussion

126. Some specific observations were made on the methodological recommendations for the in-depth evaluation. It was noted that the proposed methodology narrowly focused on the use of questionnaires as an instrument of data collection; another delegation suggested the inclusion of regional evaluation results in the in-depth report. The exclusion from the in-depth study of activities on crime prevention and criminal justice and the advancement of women was also discussed.

127. A number of delegations noted with concern the lack of progress in the integration of economic and social activities in practice, in spite of support for that integration in principle, as well as the inadequacy of resources devoted to programmes on social development. The Committee also noted the observation in paragraph 45 (a) of the report that "international awareness of the problems and needs of specific groups (the ageing, the disabled, women) has increased, but the increased awareness has not been translated into significant operational activities to support national efforts".

Conclusions and recommendations

128. The Committee noted with appreciation that the progress report on the in-depth evaluation of the major programme on social development and humanitarian affairs (E/AC.51/1992/2) contained preliminary information on the effectiveness of the programme and the Secretariat's recommendations on the scope of the in-depth evaluation, the issues to be addressed and the methods of data collection.

129. The Committee endorsed the methodological recommendations for the in-depth evaluation contained in paragraphs 49 through 55 of the progress report.

3. Triennial review of the human rights programme

Discussion

130. Delegations expressed their satisfaction with the quality and honesty of the report on the triennial review of the human rights programme (E/AC.51/1992/3). A number of delegations stated that the presentation in the report of the various and sometimes conflicting viewpoints was the right approach for future triennial reviews, and perhaps for evaluation in general.

131. A number of delegations expressed concern about the problems faced by the Centre on Human Rights owing to resource constraints. On the other hand, some delegations pointed out that, despite those constraints, much could and should be done. A number of delegations expressed their hope that the current temporary freeze in hiring would not affect the recruitment of additional staff needed by the Centre.

132. The importance of establishing a human rights database was recognized, and an offer of financial assistance was made by one delegation.

133. Coordination issues were recognized as very important, particularly the coordination between the Centre and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), as well as that with non-governmental organizations, taking into account, as appropriate, the different mandates of respective bodies. A number of delegations stressed the importance of technical assistance provided by the Centre to countries. A number of delegations thought the role of Advisory Services should be more catalytic. Reservations were made by a number of delegations concerning the need for a full-time staff member for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and the involvement of non-governmental organizations in drafting new international instruments.

Recommendations

134. The Committee endorsed the recommendations contained in paragraphs 115 to 117 and 119 to 128 of the report on the understanding that United Nations organs perform their functions in accordance with their mandates, as decided by the competent governing bodies; with regard to paragraph 125, the Committee was of the view that, in the drafting of any new international instruments, as may be decided, the involvement of non-governmental organizations would be in conformity with existing practice.

135. The Committee took note of the recommendation contained in paragraph 118.

136. The Committee recommended that, wherever possible, future triennial reviews should follow the presentation used in this report.

4. Progress report on the major programme on science and technology

Discussion

137. A number of delegations recalled General Assembly resolution 46/185 B and reaffirmed their view that the restructuring effected by the Secretary-General should not imply a standstill in activity nor should it affect the implementation of the existing mandates and the accomplishment of tasks in this area.

138. One delegation stated its appreciation of the oral report by the representative of the Department of Economic and Social Development. It considered that the requested report of the Secretary-General would no longer be useful and proposed that the issue be postponed indefinitely. A number of delegations were of the opinion that the oral report could not replace the

report requested and that its presentation would have enabled the Secretariat, inter alia, to describe the rationale behind the restructuring of its coordination and support unit for the major programme on science and technology.

139. A number of delegations expressed great concern that full implementation of the General Assembly's resolutions on science and technology for development might be impaired in the event of a reduction of resources assigned to the major programme on science and technology as a consequence of the restructuring of both legislative organs and the Secretariat.

140. A number of delegations noticed a lack of explicit reference in the oral report to environmental issues in spite of their relevance to the work of the United Nations in science and technology and, in particular, to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and Agenda 21. 7/

Conclusions and recommendations

141. The Committee expressed regret that the report requested at its thirtieth session, which was to have contained a conclusive analysis and proposals for solving the problems associated with the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development, had not been prepared and took note of the assurances provided by the Secretariat with reference to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 46/185 B.

142. The Committee decided to discuss the issue of science and technology for development in the context of the forthcoming revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 and the revised estimates of the 1992-1993 programme budget at its resumed session, in order to determine whether, in the light of the information contained in the revisions to the major programme on science and technology for development and the revised estimates, additional information would be needed for the thirty-third session of the Committee.

IV. COORDINATION QUESTIONS

A. Report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination and preparations for the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination

B. Preparation of the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women for the period 1996-2001

143. At its 2nd to 5th meetings, on 11 and 12 May, the Committee considered the annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 1991 (E/1992/11 and Add.1 and 2), the report of the Chairmen of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination on the twenty-sixth series of Joint Meetings of the two Committees (E/1991/143) and the report of the Secretary-General on the preparation of the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women for the period 1991-2001 (E/1992/6).

Discussion

144. The Committee had an extensive and wide-ranging discussion of the report of ACC, during which many issues relating to both the content and the format of the report, as well as to the substantive issues addressed in it, were considered.

145. A number of delegations were of the view that the transition in the States of Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States was a challenge to the organizations of the United Nations system and might call for additional resources to respond fully to it. Other delegations stated that the transition might place an additional potential strain on United Nations resources.

146. A number of delegations expressed reservations about the principle of zero real budget growth referred to in the report, noting that zero real growth had never been established as a principle. Other delegations supported the approach of zero real growth. They recalled that the General Assembly, in its resolution 45/255 concerning the recommendations of the Committee, had requested that a proposal by the Secretary-General predicated that zero real growth in recurrent expenditure should constitute the basis for the preparations of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 and that similar decisions had been taken by the governing bodies of other organs. A number of delegations, however, emphasized that most of the specialized agencies or institutions had not taken such a decision.

147. The Committee took note of the statement made by the Secretariat, according to which a temporary suspension of external recruitment was imposed with a view to enabling an orderly implementation of the restructuring process. The Secretariat stated that it hoped that the temporary suspension would be lifted in the near future.

148. A number of delegations supported the convening of a conference on financing for development as proposed by the Secretary-General. Some

delegations noted that the convening of such a conference would be considered by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

149. A number of delegations questioned the apparent lack of commitment on the part of Governments to combat desertification, which was noted in the report.

150. A number of delegations expressed concern about and asked for more precise information relating to the carrying out of the functions that were previously exercised by the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation and about new focal points for United Nations responsibilities related to African economic recovery and development and the follow-up of the Chernobyl accident. The Secretariat explained that the responsibilities entrusted to the Office of the Director-General had been transferred to the Department of Economic and Social Development, including the focal point responsibility related to African economic recovery and development. Arrangements for the setting-up of a focal point for the follow-up of the Chernobyl accident were being discussed within the Secretariat.

151. While a number of delegations expressed concern about the financial situation of the Development Forum and requested that it be funded from the regular budget, other delegations questioned its continued usefulness. At the same time, it was noted that satisfaction had been expressed in that respect by the targeted audience through their answers to the readers' survey. Some delegations observed that the declining financial support for the Development Forum by United Nations agencies might be related to the fact that the publication contains views critical of the utility of United Nations development activities.

152. Some delegations were concerned about the possible interruption of the unique activities of the Non-Governmental Liaison Service, owing to a lack of solid funding, at a time when organizations of the United Nations system had already indicated their support for the principle of establishing that Service as a jointly financed activity.

153. A number of delegations expressed satisfaction with the contribution of the Joint Meetings of CPC and ACC with regard to substantive proposals for in-depth discussion during sessions of the Economic and Social Council.

Conclusions and recommendations

The annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination

154. The Committee regretted the late issue of some documentation and stressed that improved planning for the timely issue of documents by the Secretariat was urgently needed.

155. At a time of profound change in international relations, the Committee saw a greater need for enhanced and improved coordination in the United Nations system, both at Headquarters and in the field. The intention of the Secretary-General, as Chairman of ACC, to assign a high priority to

coordination and to work with his colleagues on ACC to develop new approaches for collaboration was welcomed.

156. The intention of ACC to review its role and functioning, including the functioning of its subsidiary machinery, was also welcomed. The Committee agreed that the review should take into account all relevant guidance of intergovernmental bodies.

157. The Committee also encouraged ACC to rationalize its practices and procedures so that coordination could be carried out with greater effectiveness and efficiency.

158. The Committee reaffirmed the critical role of ACC itself and emphasized its linkages with the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies in strengthening system-wide coherence and coordination, particularly in the light of General Assembly resolution 45/264.

159. The Committee recognized that further improvements had been made in the format of the ACC annual overview report for 1991 (E/1992/11 and Add.1 and 2). At the same time there was general agreement that further improvement was urgently needed. The report was considered too descriptive in nature. A more analytical and forward-looking report was required in order to facilitate the tasks and responsibilities regarding coordination of the respective organizations which were members of ACC. The Committee emphasized that the purpose of the report was to serve as an instrument to enable both Member States and ACC to identify and overcome problems in system-wide coordination.

160. The Committee stressed the importance of coordination at the field level and highlighted the role of the United Nations resident coordinator. The Committee looked forward to the outcome of the review of the field presence of the United Nations currently being carried out by the Secretary-General.

161. The Committee took note of the continuing efforts of the Secretary-General, including those in his capacity as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, to coordinate assistance to countries which have invoked Article 50 of the Charter of the United Nations. The Committee requested the Administrative Committee on Coordination to incorporate in the next annual overview report relevant information, including that provided by the Secretary-General on measures undertaken and progress achieved by agencies in this regard.

162. The Committee noted the statement made by the Secretariat that the question of coordination between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions would be considered at the 1992 session of the Council.

163. The Committee stressed the need to improve further the inter-agency coordination and to enhance the efficiency and responsiveness of United Nations activities to address the needs of countries that are undergoing the process of transition to a market economy.

164. The Committee underlined the need to implement expeditiously General Assembly resolutions 45/190 and 46/150 on coordination of international cooperation to mitigate the consequences of the disaster at the Chernobyl

nuclear power plant taking account also of the relevant decision of the governing bodies of United Nations organs, organizations and programmes including the Governing Council of UNDP.

165. The Committee noted that the Secretary-General would submit to the Committee at its resumed session a draft system-wide plan of action for African economic recovery and development, as called for by the General Assembly, taking account also of the Committee's recommendations on the system-wide plan of action on drugs.

166. The Committee stressed that the Secretary-General, in preparing the draft system-wide plan, should be in full conformity with the recommendations of the Committee at its thirtieth and thirty-first sessions, endorsed by the General Assembly, regarding the structure, format and content of the system-wide plan, taking account also of the Committee's recommendations with regard to the presentation and format of the system-wide plan of action on drugs. In that regard, the Committee stressed that the draft system-wide plan should identify problem areas requiring multilateral attention and action. It should include updated analytical and action-oriented proposals with a clear delineation of the responsibilities of each agency, goals to be attained and indications of resources required and available.

Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination

167. The Committee took note of the report of the twenty-sixth series of Joint Meetings of the two Committees (E/1991/143).

168. The Committee reaffirmed the potential of the Joint Meetings as a forum for dialogue between Member States and executive heads and recommended that the Joint Meetings be reviewed against that criterion, and that the documentation should be prepared in consultation with the CPC or its Bureau and issued in due time.

169. The Committee was of the view that the topic for the Joint Meetings should be selected ahead of time so that the dialogue could be of interest for all participants while being well focused and leading to specific conclusions.

170. The Committee, bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 45/264 of 13 May 1991, decided to return to the questions of the timing and topic of the twenty-seventh series of the Joint Meetings at its resumed session.

Preparation of the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women for the period 1996-2001

171. The Committee took note of the report on the preparation of the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women for the period 1996-2001 (E/1992/6), and the fact that the plan was still in a preparatory process.

172. The Committee proposed that subprogramme 4.2, "Eradication of violence against women in the family and society", should be placed under programme 1, "Elimination of legal and attitudinal forms of discrimination". The Committee also proposed that dangers to women in armed conflict should be reflected in programme 4, "Promotion of peace and conflict resolution".

V. REPORTS OF THE JOINT INSPECTION UNIT

173. At its 6th and 8th meetings on 13 and 14 May, the Committee considered the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Reporting on the performance and results of the United Nations programme: monitoring, evaluation and management review components" (A/43/124), and the comments of the Secretary-General (A/43/124/Add.1).

Discussion

174. A number of delegations stressed the need for sufficient resources and training in order to promote adequate self-evaluation.

175. A number of delegations suggested that the first priority should be to improve programme design.

176. While a number of delegations supported recommendation 1 contained in the report of the Joint Inspection Unit, others expressed reservations regarding the workload involved and the size of the programme performance report it would entail. The latter held that submitting such a report concurrently with the proposed biennial programme budget might also raise some difficulties.

177. With respect to recommendation 2 of the report, a number of delegations were of the view that evaluation functions needed to be strengthened in a cost-effective manner. The possibility of assigning evaluation functions to an inspector-general was proposed by one delegation, while others maintained that the United Nations should rather aim at strengthening current mechanisms, such as JIU and the Board of Auditors.

178. A number of delegations supported recommendation 3 of the report, while others pointed out possible difficulties in undertaking an annual in-depth review in the area of administration and conference services.

179. With respect to recommendation 4, the hope was expressed that the development of an integrated management information system currently under way would contribute to the improvement of the information available for decision-making.

Conclusions and recommendations

180. The Committee expressed its concern that, over the years, very little improvement had been achieved in providing the legislative bodies concerned with an analytical report on programme performance. Such an improvement was considered essential for Member States to take informed decisions on programmes of work, including the identification of ineffective activities and reformulation of programmes in the light of emerging priorities.

181. The Committee noted with appreciation the high quality of the report and expressed agreement with its diagnosis of the imperfections in reporting on performance and results achieved under the United Nations work programmes. The Committee expressed dissatisfaction with many aspects of the current

system for reporting performance, as well as with the limited scope of coverage of evaluation and what it perceived to be a lack of responsiveness on the part of programme managers.

182. Recalling the extensive debate over the years on this issue, the Committee concluded that a future report by the Joint Inspection Unit on the subject would not be necessary.

183. There was general agreement in the Committee that the evaluation function needed to be strengthened through a change of culture within the Secretariat, as well as through recourse to independent external evaluation.

184. The Committee expressed the view that a clearer description of the objectives to be attained and the incorporation of performance indicators would contribute to a better formulation of the programme budget and a more effective system of monitoring and evaluation.

185. The need to clarify the different concepts of evaluation, the monitoring of performance and inspection were emphasized. Those three different aspects of reporting complemented one another.

186. It was noted that the quantitative approach of the current system of programme performance reporting, required by the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, Budgeting, Monitoring and Evaluation, was necessary but not nearly sufficient, and that the effectiveness of monitoring was a function of the quality of the medium-term plan and the programme budget. To the extent that those procedures were specific in quantifying outputs and activities planned and financed, the effectiveness of monitoring would be enhanced. The Committee also noted that the inclusion of self-evaluation findings on an experimental basis could constitute the basis for a more comprehensive report.

187. The Committee was informed that those issues would be addressed in the prototype of the new budget to be submitted to the Committee at its resumed session.

188. The Secretariat was invited to draw on the experiences of other organizations of the United Nations system, taking into account the specificity of the United Nations itself.

VI. CONSIDERATION OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE THIRTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE

189. In pursuance of paragraph 2 (e) of Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/41 of 10 May 1979, and paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 34/50 of 23 November 1979, the Committee shall submit to the Council and to the Assembly, for their review, the provisional agenda for its thirty-third session, together with the required documentation. In accordance with paragraph 8 of the annex to Council resolution 2008 (LX) of 14 May 1976, the thirty-third session shall be of four weeks' duration.

190. At its 20th meeting, on 22 May, the Committee considered the provisional agenda and the documentation for its thirty-third session on the basis of a note by the Secretariat (E/AC.51/1992/L.4).

191. At the same meeting, the Committee decided to submit to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, for their review, the following provisional agenda for its thirty-third session, subject to those new agenda items or reports which might be approved at the Committee's resumed thirty-second session:

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

3. Programme questions.

   (a) Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995;

   Documentation

   Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 (in fascicle form)

   (b) Review of the procedure for the provision of statements of programme budget implications and for the use and operation of the contingency fund;

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General (A/46/16, para. 411; and General Assembly resolution 46/189, sect. IV, para. 4)

   (c) Evaluation.

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth evaluation of the programme on the international protection of and assistance to refugees: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (A/44/16, para. 318, and A/45/16, part one, para. 363)

Progress report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth evaluation of the programme on the international protection of and assistance to refugees: United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (A/45/16, part one, para. 363)

Report of the Secretary-General on the triennial review of the major programme on human settlements (A/37/38, para. 362, and A/39/38, para. 364)

Follow-up report of the Secretary-General on the human rights programme

4. Coordination questions.

Report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination and preparations for the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination.

Documentation

Annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 1992

Report of the Chairmen of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination on the twenty-seventh series of Joint Meetings of the two Committees

5. Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General (General Assembly resolution 45/254, para. 17).

6. Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit.

7. Provisional agenda for the thirty-fourth session of the Committee.

8. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its thirty-third session.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/39/38), para. 388.

2/ Ibid., Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/46/16).

3/ Ibid., paras. 394-450.

4/ Ibid., para. 400.

Notes (continued)

5/ To be issued in printed form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/47/6/Rev.1).

6/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/45/16).

7/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8, vol. I, resolution 1, annex II.

ANNEX I

Agenda for the thirty-second session of the Committee

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

3. Review of the programme of work of the Committee and suggestions on the timing and duration of its sessions.

4. Programme questions:

   (a) Programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1990-1991;

   (b) Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997;

   (c) Outline of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995;

   (d) Methodology for the preparation of the programme budget;

   (e) Evaluation;

   (f) Questions related to the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

5. Coordination questions:

   (a) Report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination and preparations for the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination;

   (b) System-wide plan of action for African economic recovery and development;

   (c) Preparation of the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women for the period 1996-2001.

6. Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations.

7. Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit.

8. Provisional agenda for the thirty-third session of the Committee.

9. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its thirty-second session.

ANNEX II

List of documents before the Committee at the first part of its thirty-second session

A/47/6	Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997
	General considerations
	Programme 25 Global issues and policies
	Programme 26 Integration of social groups
	Programme 27 Advancement of women
	Programme 29 Crime prevention and criminal justice
	Programme 30 Regional cooperation for development in Africa
	Programme 31 and Corr.1 Regional cooperation for development in Asia and the Pacific
	Programme 32 Regional cooperation for development in Europe
	Programme 33 Regional cooperation for development in Latin America and the Caribbean
	Programme 34 Regional cooperation for development in Western Asiaa
	Programme 35 Promotion and protection of human rights
A/43/124 and Add.1	Note by the Secretary-General on the reporting on the performance and results of United Nations programmes: monitoring, evaluation and management review components
A/46/219	Implementation of the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit
A/47/116	Report of the Secretary-General on programme evaluation in the United Nations: assessment of evaluation activities and proposals for strengthening the role of evaluation
A/47/159 and Add.1	Report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1990-1991
E/1992/6	Report of the Secretary-General on the preparation of the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women for the period 1996-2001
E/1992/11 and Add.1 and 2	Annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 1991

E/AC.51/1992/2	Progress report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth evaluation of the major programme on social development and humanitarian affairs
E/AC.51/1992/3	Report of the Secretary-General on the triennial review of the human rights programme
E/AC.51/1992/4	Note by the Secretary-General on the progress report on the major programme on science and technology for development
E/AC.51/1992/CRP.1	New directions for evaluations in the professional literature
E/AC.51/1992/CRP.2	Self-evaluations conducted during 1986-1991
E/AC.51/1992/INF.1	List of delegations
E/AC.51/1992/L.1	Draft programme of work: note by the Secretariat
E/AC.51/1992/L.2 and Rev.1	Note by the Secretariat on the status of documentation for the session
E/AC.51/1992/L.3 and Add.1-16	Draft report of the Committee
E/AC.51/1992/L.4	Draft provisional agenda for the thirty-third session of the Committee

Part Two

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION ON THE SECOND PART OF ITS THIRTY-SECOND SESSION*

Held at United Nations Headquarters from
31 August to 18 September 1992

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* Originally issued in mimeographed form under the symbol A/47/16 (Part II).

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

1. The Committee for Programme and Coordination held its resumed thirty-second session at United Nations Headquarters from 31 August to 18 September 1992. It held 24 meetings (22nd to 45th meetings), and a number of informal consultations.

A. Agenda

2. The agenda for the resumed thirty-second session is reproduced in annex I below.

B. Election of a Vice-Chairman

3. At its 42nd meeting, on 16 September, the Committee elected by acclamation Mr. Nathan Irumba (Uganda) as Vice-Chairman in replacement of Mr. David Etuket (Uganda), who was unable to attend the session.

C. Attendance

4. The following States members of the Committee were represented:

Algeria
Argentina
Bahamas
Brazil
Bulgaria
Burundi
Cameroon
Chile
China
Colombia
Congo
France
Germany
Ghana
India
Indonesia
Iraq
Italy
Japan
Morocco
Netherlands
Nigeria
Norway
Pakistan
Poland
Russian Federation
Sri Lanka
Trinidad and Tobago
Uganda
Ukraine
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America
Uruguay
Zambia

5. The following States members of the United Nations were represented by observers:

Australia
Austria
Bolivia
Canada
Cuba
Finland
Hungary
Ireland
Latvia
Mexico
Portugal
Spain
Sweden
Togo
Venezuela

6. The following specialized agencies were represented:

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

World Health Organization

7. Also present at the session were the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management, the Acting Controller and other senior officials of the United Nations Secretariat, including representatives of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Europe.

D. Documentation

8. The list of documents before the Committee at its resumed thirty-second session is set forth in annex II below.

9. The Committee expressed dismay about the persistent and unacceptable lateness of documentation. Some of the revisions to the plan were still being drafted after the Committee had begun its resumed session. This severely impeded the work of the Committee, and prevented it from completing its review of the proposed revisions.

10. The Committee believed that the Secretariat's control of the process of documentation, in particular its drafting phase, has been shown to be seriously deficient and needed to be radically improved.

11. The Committee recommended that, within the framework of the review of the format and structure of the medium-term plan, ways of ensuring the timeliness of the provision of documentation should be given priority attention. In the shorter term, the Committee requested the Secretariat to distribute, not later than 1 February of the year in which the Committee meets, a document setting out in detail the internal planning of documentation and the dates of submission of documents to Member States, and to keep them informed periodically.

12. The Committee recalled with full vigour the importance of the six-week rule for the availability of documentation and stressed that it was not in a position fully to fulfil its responsibilities in the absence of relevant documents. It stated that, at future sessions, it would be prepared to refuse to consider agenda items for which pre-session documents were presented after the beginning of the session.

13. The Committee decided to include the question of documentation on the agenda of its thirty-third session.

E. Adoption of the report of the Committee

14. At its 44th and 45th meetings, on 18 and 19 September 1992, the Committee adopted the draft report on its resumed thirty-second session (E/AC.51/1992/L.5 and Add.1-36), as orally revised and amended during the discussion.

II. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

A. Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

General considerations

Discussion

15. The Committee had considered the proposed revisions to 10 programmes during the first part of its session. At its resumed session the Committee was to review proposed revisions to 27 programmes for which the Committee was competent, in accordance with the programme planning regulations and rules, as well as further revisions to three of the programmes that it had already considered during the first part of its session.

Conclusions and recommendations

16. The Committee noted that, to a considerable extent, the proposed revisions to the medium-term plan incorporated the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, of the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and of the first phase of the ongoing process of restructuring. The Committee recommended approval of those revisions on the understanding that further modifications would be made to the relevant programmes to take into account decisions by the General Assembly, inter alia, on the follow-up of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, in particular Agenda 21, and the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, as well as the ongoing process of restructuring of the United Nations in the economic and social sectors, as foreseen by the Economic and Social Council.

17. The Committee recommended that references throughout the revisions of the medium-term plan to countries undergoing the process of transition to a market economy be made consistently, using that terminology.

18. The Committee stressed that the introduction of the concept of sustainable development in the proposed revisions to a number of programmes should be construed not as narrowing the scope of the activities mandated under the programmes contained in the initial version of the medium-term plan, but rather as adding a new dimension to their implementation.

19. The Committee noted that reference was made in a number of proposed revisions to decisions of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) and to bulletins of the Secretary-General. In that connection, the Committee noted that those do not constitute mandates for programmes.

20. The Committee continued its consideration of the format of the medium-term plan. It considered that every effort should be made to maintain the prominent place of the plan as a policy directive for the work of the Organization. The Committee noted that only a limited number of the revised programmes had been reviewed by the relevant intergovernmental bodies and

regretted that situation, which deprived the Committee of a valuable substantive input to its own review. It considered that ways should be found to improve the consideration of the plan and the revisions to the plan by those bodies.

21. The Committee recommended that a prototype of a possible new format of the medium-term plan should be presented to the Committee at its thirty-third session. The prototype should take into account the relevant conclusions of the seminar on the prototype of a new budget document and should address, in particular, issues concerning the manageability of the drafting and revision process, including the questions of preparation and submission of documentation and the review of programme planning documents by subsidiary intergovernmental machinery.

22. The Committee recommended that an ad hoc technical seminar of experts should be convened in the field of programme planning of the United Nations, without additional cost to the Organization, in order to assist the Secretariat in the drafting of the proposal.

Programme 1. Good offices and peacemaking, peace-keeping, research and the collection of information

23. At its 32nd, 33rd and 34th meetings, on 9 and 10 September, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to programme 1 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 1)). 1/

Discussion

24. A number of delegations felt that the proposed revisions did not adequately reflect the scale of changes in this area of work and that further revisions would be needed in the near future in the light of developing trends and related mandates. It was also suggested that there should be greater emphasis on early warning and on the interlinkages between political, economic and social factors.

25. A number of delegations considered that the proposed revision to paragraph 1.10 of programme 1, which referred to the Secretary-General's report entitled "An Agenda for Peace" (A/47/277-S/24111), should be deleted, since the report had yet to be considered by the relevant intergovernmental organs and there were therefore no related mandates. Other delegations felt that the Committee could support reference to that report, either if such support were made conditional on the subsequent endorsement of the report by the General Assembly and the Security Council or if its current status were specified more clearly.

26. Questions were raised about references in the proposed revisions to preventive diplomacy and the related mandates. It was also suggested that the proposed revision should have more fully reflected the existing concepts of good offices, peacemaking and peace-keeping.

27. A number of delegations felt that the proposed revision to paragraph 1.21 (b) suggested duplication in the area of collection, analysis

and dissemination of information between subprogramme 3 of programme 1 and programme 38 (Public information). The Committee noted in this connection that functions related to the collection and dissemination of publicly available information to senior officials of the Organization, carried out by the News Distribution Section of the former Office for Research and the Collection of Information of the United Nations Secretariat, had been transferred to the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat and that a related revision to programme 38 was currently being proposed. It was noted that the consolidation under subprogramme 3 of functions relating to analysis of information and preparation of studies and reports previously provided for under that subprogramme of programme 1 and under subprogramme 2 of programme 2 was currently being proposed.

28. One delegation was of the view that the proposed revisions to programme 1 could have better reflected the distinction in responsibilities for the preparation of reports and other activities related to peace issues proposed under paragraph 1.21 of that programme and paragraph 2.11 of programme 2.

29. In reply to queries, the United Nations Secretariat informed the Committee that the use of the United Nations information centres as a source of political information, as indicated in the proposed revision to paragraph 1.21 (b), was included in the current plan and related to publicly available information sent to Headquarters by the Centres.

Conclusions and recommendations

30. The Committee noted that the Secretary-General's proposals on preventive diplomacy in his report entitled "An Agenda for Peace" were the subject of current discussions in the relevant intergovernmental bodies and recommended that the proposed provisions be reviewed by the General Assembly in light of the outcome of those discussions.

31. The Committee recommended the approval of the revisions to programme 1 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, with the above understanding and the following modifications:

(a) Insert, at the end of paragraph 1.8 ", including General Assembly resolution 46/59";

(b) Replace, in the first sentence of paragraph 1.9, the words "such as" by "which have been defined in General Assembly resolution 46/48, such as fact-finding, pursuant to the Declaration on Fact-finding by the United Nations in the Field of the Maintenance of International Peace and Security as approved by the General Assembly, and";

(c) Insert, at the end of paragraph 1.12, "as well as annual General Assembly resolutions on the comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations in all their aspects, most recently resolution 46/48";

(d) Insert, in the proposed revision to paragraph 1.21 (f), after the words "regional organizations" the words "as appropriate".

Programme 2. Political and Security Council Affairs

32. At its 32nd and 33rd meetings, on 9 and 10 September, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to programme 2 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 2)).

33. One delegation drew the Committee's attention to the advantages of integrating the Field Operations Division in the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs, in view of the key role played by the Division in the conduct of peace-keeping operations.

34. One delegation believed the matter of the location of the Field Operations Division was up to the discretion of the Secretary-General.

35. Another delegation was of the view that the proposed revisions could have better reflected the distinction in responsibilities for the preparation of reports and other activities related to peace issues undertaken under paragraph 2.11 of this programme and under paragraph 1.21 of programme 1.

Conclusions and recommendations

36. The Committee noted that the Secretary-General's Bulletin does not constitute a mandate for programmes.

37. The Committee recommended the approval of the revisions to programme 2 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, with the following modifications:

(a) At the end of paragraph 2.11 (f), after the words Zone of Peace, add "and as considered at the meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean held in July 1979";

(b) In paragraph 2.8, a reference to General Assembly resolutions 44/11 and 43/61, concerning activities related to the International Day of Peace and the International Week of Science and Peace, respectively, should be included.

Programme 3. Political and General Assembly Affairs and Secretariat Services

38. At its 32nd and 33rd meetings, on 9 and 10 September, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to programme 3 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 3)).

Discussion

39. One delegation noted that the transfer to the Department of Economic and Social Development of the United Nations Secretariat of functions relating to the technical servicing of meetings in the economic and social fields, as referred to in paragraph 3.3 of the proposed revisions to this programme, split servicing functions for the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council that had only recently been consolidated. It expressed concern that

there should be adequate cooperation among the different offices of the Secretariat that are now responsible for technical servicing of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

40. Several delegations were of the view that paragraph 3.2 of the proposed revisions to programme 3 needed to be revised. One delegation suggested that the paragraph be deleted.

Conclusions and recommendations

41. The Committee noted the confirmation by the Secretariat that the reference to a Secretary-General's Bulletin in the proposed revision to paragraph 3.3 should not be seen as a mandate.

42. The Committee recommended the approval of the revisions to programme 3 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.

Programme 4. Special political questions, trusteeship and decolonization

43. At its 33rd and 34th meetings, on 10 September, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to programme 4 (Special political questions, trusteeship and decolonization) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 4)).

Discussion

44. A number of delegations queried reference to the concept of preventive diplomacy in the proposed revisions.

45. A number of delegations disagreed with the proposed revision to the title of the former subprogramme 2, Trusteeship and decolonization, to read subprogramme 3, Self-determination, trusteeship and decolonization, since this gave undue prominence to one aspect of work in that area. A number of delegations, however, supported the change.

46. A number of delegations raised questions about the failure to refer to economic and social aspects of cooperation under the proposed subprogramme 2 (Regional, political and security cooperation). The Committee noted that references to such cooperation would be maintained under subprogramme 1 (Special political questions).

47. A number of delegations felt that the reference to cooperation with regional organizations in the proposed new paragraph 4.28 should make clear that such cooperation should be in accordance with the respective mandates of those organizations.

48. One delegation queried the relevance of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations in the context of these revisions, as well as the identity of the relevant provisions referred to in the proposed new paragraph 4.29.

49. A number of delegations supported the inclusion of the proposed new subprogramme 4 (Enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections) in view of the terms of General Assembly resolution 46/137. Several delegations stressed that national elections were an internal matter of sovereign States and that there was no need for a general role for the United Nations. Assistance by the United Nations should be limited on a case-by-case basis to those instances where it had been requested and should fully respect Article 2 of the Charter concerning matters within the domestic jurisdiction of States. Some delegations therefore questioned the inclusion of subprogramme 4.

50. A number of delegations questioned reference to peacemaking, human rights and development assistance in the second sentence of the proposed paragraph 4.39 and suggested deletion of the text beginning "as a mechanism to promote ...".

51. A number of delegations questioned whether there was a mandate for activities included in the proposed paragraphs 4.40 (d) and (g).

52. One delegation stressed the importance of respecting the principle of equitable geographical distribution in the roster of international experts referred to in the proposed paragraph 4.40 (e).

Conclusions and recommendations

53. The Committee recommended the approval of subprogrammes 1, 2 and 3 of the revisions to programme 4 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 with the following modifications:

(a) Insert, after the words "regional organizations" in the first sentence of paragraph 4.28, the words "as appropriate";

(b) Retain, as agreed by the Committee, the title of subprogramme 3 as contained in programme 4 of the current medium-term plan. 2/

54. The Committee was unable to reach an agreed recommendation on subprogramme 4 and requested the General Assembly to give it further consideration.

Programme 5. Question of Palestine

55. At its 33rd and 34th meetings, on 10 September, the Committee considered proposed revisions to programme 5 (Question of Palestine) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 5)).

Discussion

56. Several delegations questioned the significance and necessity of the proposed revisions to paragraphs 5.12 and 5.13 (e). One delegation suggested that the revision to paragraph 5.12 should read "to disseminate information and mobilize support for".

57. A number of delegations felt that current developments risked rendering the proposed revisions obsolete and that the Secretariat should keep them under close review.

Conclusions and recommendations

58. The Committee recommended approval of the revisions to programme 5 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, with the following modification: retention of the original wording of paragraph 5.13 (f).

Programme 6. Elimination of apartheid

59. At its 33rd and 34th meetings, on 10 September, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to programme 6 (Elimination of apartheid) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 6)).

Discussion

60. A number of delegations raised questions about whether the objectives contained in proposed paragraphs 6.26 (a) and (c) to (f) were justified by the relevant mandates, as referred to in the proposed paragraph 6.25.

61. A number of delegations expressed the view that the words "a new, non-racial and democratic South Africa" at the end of the proposed title of subprogramme 1, were not justified at the present stage.

62. A number of delegations proposed that the words "through peaceful means" proposed for insertion in proposed new paragraph 6.3 should not be inserted and that the words "peacefully" and "peaceful" should be deleted from proposed paragraphs 6.13 and 6.19 respectively.

63. The Committee noted with concern that the proposed revisions had not been reviewed by the Special Committee against Apartheid.

Conclusions and recommendations

64. The Committee noted that the decision of the Administrative Committee on Coordination taken in April 1991, which is reflected in proposed paragraph 6.34, did not constitute a legislative mandate.

65. The Committee recommended approval of the revisions to programme 6 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, with the following modifications:

(a) At the end of proposed paragraph 6.3 (c), insert "including, in the light of developments in South Africa, the possible mobilization of international action against apartheid";

(b) Retain the first sentence of proposed paragraph 6.4;

(c) In proposed paragraph 6.13, before the last sentence insert "The Special Committee will also be responsible for the possible mobilization of international action against apartheid in the light of developments in South Africa";

(d) In proposed paragraph 6.14, third sentence, delete the phrase "to be the focal point" and insert "its programme of work";

(e) In proposed paragraph 6.16 and throughout the text, the titles of subprogrammes 1 and 3 should read as follows:

(i) "Subprogramme 1. Monitoring and coordination of international action against apartheid and in support of political processes leading to a new, non-racial and democratic South Africa";

(ii) "Subprogramme 3. Publicity against apartheid";

(f) Subparagraph 6.36 (e) should read "(e) Ensuring the necessary coordination of information and promotional activities of the United Nations system relating to apartheid with regard to and in South Africa;"

(g) Insert a new subparagraph, 6.36 (g), reading "Resuming and promoting, if necessary, the international campaign against apartheid".

Programme 7. Disarmament

66. At its 34th meeting, on 10 September, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to programme 7 (Disarmament) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 7)).

Discussion

67. A number of delegations believed that the text of the proposed new paragraph 7.9 of programme 7 needed to be substantially revised. One delegation questioned the need for adding the paragraph to the text of the revisions to this programme.

Conclusions and recommendations

68. The Committee recommended the approval of the revisions to programme 7 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, with the following modifications:

(a) In the proposed paragraph 7.9:

(i) In the second sentence, after the word "issues", replace "that" with "which may";

(ii) Replace the third sentence with the following: "This would require appropriate adjustments in the work of the Department of Political Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat with a view to promoting

security, arms control and disarmament, taking into account the Declaration of the Summit Meeting of the Security Council of 31 January 1992, as appropriate";

(b) In old paragraph 7.42, add a reference to General Assembly resolution 46/36 L of 9 December 1991, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General, inter alia, to establish and maintain at United Nations Headquarters a Register of Conventional Arms.

Programme 8. Peaceful uses of outer space

69. At its 34th meeting, on 10 September, the Committee considered revisions to programme 8 (Peaceful uses of outer space) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 8)).

Conclusions and recommendations

70. The Committee recommended the approval of the revisions to programme 8 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.

Programme 11. Overall issues and policies, including coordination

71. At its 40th meeting, on 15 September, the Committee considered the question of revisions to programme 11 (Overall issues and policies, including coordination) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 11)), on the basis of a conference room paper prepared by the Secretariat (E/AC.51/1992/CRP.4).

Discussion

72. A number of delegations recognized the difficulties faced by the Secretariat in proposing revisions to programme 11 at the present juncture in view of the ongoing reviews mentioned in the conference room paper and the direct implications that the outcome of those reviews would have on the content of the programme.

73. A number of delegations considered that revisions to programme 11 could have been submitted, and expressed their concern that the submission of revisions in 1993 would add to the workload of the Committee, since it would mean a simultaneous review of the revisions and of the related section of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

74. A number of delegations emphasized the important role that programme 11 played in ensuring effective coordination of the activities of the United Nations and the organizations of the United Nations system in the economic and social areas. They stressed that revisions to programme 11 would also have implications for the content of various other programmes of the medium-term plan in those areas.

Conclusions and recommendations

75. The Committee took note of the proposals made by the Secretariat in document E/AC.51/1992/CRP.4.

76. The Committee recommended that the Secretary-General should submit revisions to programme 11 to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session through the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

Programme 12. Global development issues and policies

77. At its 34th to 36th meetings, on 10 and 11 September, the Committee considered the revisions to programme 12 (Global development issues and policies) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 12)).

Discussion

78. A number of delegations emphasized the importance of programme 12 for defining global objectives and courses of action for sustainable development. Some delegations indicated that the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development had a substantial impact with regard to strategies and objectives established in the context of the programme, and stressed the role of the programme for the follow-up of the Conference. In the view of many delegations, the follow-up activities of the Conference were not adequately reflected in the revisions.

79. A number of delegations questioned the validity of revisions to the programme that reflected the outcome of the Conference and indicated that such revisions could be made only after the General Assembly, at its forty-seventh session, had taken a decision on the conclusions and recommendations of the Conference. They were of the view that the review of the revisions should be postponed until the Committee's thirty-third session, in 1993, at which time that review could be undertaken on the basis of the follow-up proposals to be made by the Secretary-General and related decisions taken by the General Assembly. Several of delegations, however, were of the view that the proposed revisions could be reviewed by the Committee at its current session.

80. A number of delegations considered that there was duplication between some of the activities programmed under programme 12 and those programmed under programme 13 (International trade).

81. Some delegations questioned the rationale for the deletion of the words "and social" in paragraph 12.2, as those words stressed the interrelation of the economic and social aspects of development. They therefore suggested that the existing text of the paragraph be retained. Other delegations supported the proposal of the Secretary-General.

82. A number of delegations suggested the deletion of the last sentence in revised paragraph 12.8.

83. A number of delegations suggested that the text proposed as a replacement of the text in paragraph 12.23 be expanded to reflect the possible impact of the ongoing transformation of the economic structure and policies in Eastern Europe and in the republics of the former Soviet Union on the economy of the developing countries. One delegation suggested that the last sentence of the revised text proposed for paragraph 12.23 be deleted.

84. A number of delegations felt that the text proposed as a replacement for paragraph 12.32 dealt with problems outside the scope of subprogramme 2 and suggested that the existing text be retained instead.

85. A number of delegations were of the view that the activities proposed in the new paragraph 12.60 overlapped with the mandates of UNCTAD and GATT.

86. A number of delegations suggested that a reference to UNDP should be added in the text of paragraph 12.74.

87. One delegation suggested that the reference to the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade in paragraph 12.3 be deleted, since that mandate was redundant.

88. Another delegation suggested that a reference to the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development be included in paragraph 12.3.

89. One delegation questioned the revisions proposed for paragraph 12.79 and suggested that the existing text be retained.

Conclusions and recommendations

90. The Committee recommended approval of the proposed revisions to programme 12 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, on the understanding that modifications would be made to the programme taking into account the decisions of the General Assembly on, inter alia, the follow-up of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, in particular Agenda 21, and the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, as well as the ongoing process of restructuring of the United Nations in the economic and social sectors, as foreseen by the Economic and Social Council, and with the following modifications of the programme narrative:

Paragraph 12.17: Delete the second sentence of the revisions;

Paragraph 12.23: Replace the last sentence of the revisions with the following: "A careful and continuing examination of the evolving situation of these countries, including the implications for developing countries, as well as promotion of international cooperation in resolving issues relating thereto, will be needed in the 1990s and probably beyond."

Programme 13. Trade and development

91. At its 38th and 39th meetings, on 14 September, the Committee considered revisions to programme 13 (Trade and development) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 13)).

Discussion

92. A number of delegations referred to the need for effective coordination by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) with other United Nations entities and organizations in order to avoid duplication of activities.

Conclusions and recommendations

93. The Committee noted that the Secretary-General's proposals on the allocation of high priority to subprogrammes in paragraph 13.30 had not yet been substantively reviewed by the concerned intergovernmental body. In the circumstances and with the late availability of relevant documents, the Committee was unable to make substantive recommendations on the issue of priorities, and recommended that the Trade and Development Board should provide advice to the General Assembly to assist it in its further consideration of this issue.

94. With that exception, the Committee recommended endorsement of the textual amendments to the revisions proposed by the Working Party on the Medium-Term Plan and the Programme Budget of the Trade and Development Board.

95. The Committee recommended approval of the revisions to programme 13 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 subject to the above recommendations and with the following modifications:

(a) In paragraph 13.31, a reference to the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development 3/ should be added;

(b) In paragraph 13.68, a reference to General Assembly resolution 46/145 of 17 December 1991 should be added.

Programme 14. Trade expansion, export promotion and service sector development

96. At its 38th and 39th meetings, on 14 September, the Committee considered revisions to programme 14 (Trade expansion, export promotion and service sector development) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 14)).

Discussion

97. A number of delegations expressed regret that the late issuance of the document did not allow time for the proposed revisions to be examined thoroughly.

98. A number of delegations stressed the importance of coordinating activities concerning the least developed countries implemented under programmes 14 and 15.

Conclusions and recommendations

99. The Committee noted that the Secretary-General's proposals on the allocation of high priority to subprogrammes in paragraph 14.13 had not yet been substantively reviewed by the intergovernmental body concerned. The Committee, under those circumstances and with the late availability of relevant documents, was unable to make substantive recommendations on the issue of priorities, and recommended that the Trade and Development Board should provide advice to the General Assembly to assist it in its further consideration of the issue.

100. With that exception, the Committee recommended endorsement of the textual amendments to the revisions proposed by the Working Party on the Medium-Term Plan and the Programme Budget of the Trade and Development Board.

101. The Committee recommended approval of the revisions to programme 14 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, subject to the above recommendations.

102. At its 42nd meeting, on 16 September, the Committee considered additional revisions to programme 14 of the medium-term plan (A/47/6 (Prog. 14)/Add.1).

103. The Committee recommended approval of the additional revisions to programme 14 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.

Programme 15. Least developed, land-locked and island developing countries, and special programmes

104. At its 38th and 39th meetings, on 14 September, the Committee considered revisions to programme 15 (Least developed, land-locked and island developing countries, and special programmes) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 15)).

Conclusions and recommendations

105. The Committee recommended endorsement of the amendment to the revisions proposed by the Working Party on the Medium-Term Plan and the Programme Budget of the Trade and Development Board.

106. The Committee recommended approval of the revisions to programme 15 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, subject to the above recommendation and with the following modifications:

(a) Paragraph 15.11: Replace "and serious debt-servicing problems" with "serious external sector problems and geographical handicaps where appropriate";

(b) Paragraph 15.12 (b): At the end of the paragraph, add "designed to promote sustainable development and economic and social progress";

(c) Paragraph 15.13 (b): At the end of the paragraph, replace "in the context of the international environment and domestic factors" with "taking into account their development strategies and the international environment";

(d) Paragraph 15.19 (a): Insert the words "and transit" after "land-locked".

Programme 16. Environment

107. At its 43rd meeting, on 16 September 1992, the Committee was informed that the fascicle containing revisions to programme 16 (Environment) had not yet been issued as an official document.

108. The Committee expressed its dissatisfaction with the situation, which precluded its review of the proposed revisions under that programme. The Committee decided to refer those revisions to the General Assembly and recommended that the Assembly should consider them in depth.

Programme 17. Science and technology for sustainable development

109. At its 40th meeting, on 15 September, the Committee considered revisions to programme 17 (Science and technology for sustainable development) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 17)).

Discussion

110. A number of delegations were of the view that the proposed revisions placed excessive emphasis on the environmental aspects of science and technology issues and did not take into account the needs of developing countries to strengthen their technological capacities, including through access to new technologies. In that context they felt that the proposed new title of programme 17 unduly reduced the scope of the programme. A number of delegations, however, supported the proposals of the Secretary-General.

111. A number of delegations were of the view that the narrative of the programme was too general and lacked a concrete and specific description of what would be done and what was expected to be achieved.

112. A number of delegations felt that subprogramme 4 was of limited importance and could be deleted. Related activities could be transferred to other subprogrammes under programme 17 and to programme 38 (Public information), as appropriate.

113. One delegation proposed that subprogrammes 1 and 2 be consolidated into one subprogramme entitled "Industrial technology".

114. Another delegation proposed the following amendments to the revisions:

(a) Paragraph 17.4 (d): Insert the words "avoiding duplication and" after the words "with a view to";

(b) Paragraph 17.4 (e): Replace the text of subparagraph (e) with the following: "to support and harmonize with the work of the high-level Commission on Sustainable Development, to be established in accordance with chapter 38 of Agenda 21, within the mandate of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development";

(c) Paragraph 17.7: In the penultimate sentence delete the word "effectively" and, after the word "reasonable", insert the word "far-sighted".

115. One delegation questioned the rationale for replacing the words "where possible" with "as needed" in the first sentence of paragraph 17.18 and suggested that the existing text be retained.

116. Another delegation did not agree with the deletion of paragraph 17.19 and suggested that the paragraph be retained.

117. One delegation proposed that the words "increasing the efficiency" in paragraph 17.21 (g) be replaced by the words "wider application".

Conclusions and recommendations

118. The Committee recommended approval of the proposed revisions to programme 20 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 with the following modifications:

(a) Paragraph 17.11: At the end of the paragraph, delete the following words: "and the Task Force on Sustainable Development of the Administrative Committee on Coordination";

(b) Paragraph 17.12: In the third line from the bottom, after the word "particularly", insert the words "Rio Declaration on Environment and Development 4/ and";

(c) Paragraph 17.24 (f): After the words "developing countries", insert the words "and countries in transition from central planning to a market economy";

(d) In the general orientation part of the narrative, reference should be made to the need to address specific problems that countries in transition from central planning to a market economy confront in strengthening their technological capacity.

119. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly should review the proposed revisions to the titles of programme 17 and subprogramme 1 in the light of the relevant mandates. Pending the decision of the Assembly on this issue, the Committee recommended that the existing titles be maintained.

Programme 18. Population

120. At its 37th meeting, on 14 September, the Committee considered proposed revisions to programme 18 (Population) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 18)).

Discussion

121. A number of delegations suggested that a reference to the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development 4/ and to Agenda 21, 5/ adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, be added to the legislative mandates for subprogrammes 3 and 4 listed in paragraphs 18.23 and 18.33, respectively.

122. One delegation suggested that, in the proposed revisions to paragraph 18.3, the word "environment" be replaced with the words "sustainable development".

123. Another delegation suggested that, in the second sentence of paragraph 18.10, the word "organizations" be replaced with the word "institutions" and that a reference to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) be added in that paragraph.

124. One delegation suggested that, in the proposed revision to paragraph 18.26, the words "and development" be added after the word "environment".

Conclusions and recommendations

125. The Committee recommended approval of the proposed revisions to programme 18 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.

Programme 19. Natural resources

126. At its 38th meeting, on 14 September, the Committee considered revisions to programme 19 (Natural resources) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 19)).

Discussion

127. A number of delegations suggested that a reference to the 1991 Dublin Conference be made in paragraph 19.9. Other delegations pointed out the difficulties encountered in the course of the debate in the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development which had resulted in disagreement over inclusion of that reference in Agenda 21.

Conclusions and recommendations

128. The Committee recommended approval of the proposed revisions to programme 19 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.

Programme 20. Energy

129. At its 39th meeting, on 14 September 1992, the Committee considered revisions to programme 20 (Energy) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 20)).

Discussion

130. A number of delegations were of the view that the proposed revisions placed excessive emphasis on environmental aspects of energy issues and did not take sufficiently into account the difficulties that developing countries faced in developing their energy resources. A number of delegations were of the view that the revisions overemphasized issues of energy supply, while the problems of energy conservation had not received adequate treatment. A number of delegations supported the proposals by the Secretary-General.

131. A number of delegations stressed the importance of the contribution that the programme could make to the development of the countries in transition from central planning to a market economy and suggested that reference to those countries be made under various paragraphs of the programme, as appropriate.

132. One delegation proposed that the word "ecologically" be inserted between the words "promotion of" and "sustainable" in the title of subprogramme 2, and that the title of subprogramme 5 be modified to read as follows: "Energy conservation".

133. A number of delegations suggested that subprogramme 3 be designated high priority.

Conclusions and recommendations

134. The Committee recommended approval of the proposed revisions to programme 20 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 with the following modifications:

(a) Paragraph 20.5: At the end of the paragraph, add the following: "In the light of the commitments made by the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (A/AC.237/18 (Part II)/Add.1 and Corr. 1, annex) and the States participating in the adoption of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and Agenda 21, 6/ programmes for energy development in developing countries should take into account the fact that per capita emissions of greenhouse gases in developing countries are still relatively low and, given the overriding priority of development in developing countries, energy consumption and the attendant increase in such emissions will grow to meet their social and developmental needs.";

(b) Paragraph 20.10: In the last line of the paragraph, after the word "technology", insert "including on concessional and preferential terms";

(c) Paragraph 20.13: Add the words "including on non-commercial and preferential terms" after "sound technology" in the title of subprogramme 6;

(d) Paragraph 20.14: Add subprogrammes 2 and 3 to the list of subprogrammes designated high priority;

(e) Paragraph 20.17: In the eleventh line, replace "safer" with "sound";

(f) Paragraph 20.20: In the second line from the bottom, replace the words "developing countries' potentials" with "the potentials of member States, in particular developing countries";

(g) Paragraph 20.26: In the penultimate line, replace the words "in line with" by "to meet" and the word "with" by "taking into account";

(h) Paragraph 20.27: In the second line from the bottom, replace the words "including the sources envisaged" with "including adequate, new and additional resources envisaged in Chapter 33";

(i) Paragraph 20.39: In the fifth line from the bottom, after the words "experts from", insert "interested countries in particular from";

(j) Paragraph 20.48: Delete the words "mature and" in the second line.

Programme 21. Public administration and finance

135. At its 37th meeting, on 14 September, the Committee considered revisions to programme 21 (Public administration and finance) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 21)).

Conclusions and recommendations

136. The Committee recommended approval of the proposed revisions to programme 21 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.

Programme 22. Human settlements

137. At its 38th meeting, on 14 September, the Committee considered revisions to programme 22 (Human settlements) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 22)).

Conclusions and recommendations

138. The Committee recommended approval of the proposed revisions to programme 22 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.

Programme 23. Transnational corporations

139. At its 37th meeting, on 14 September, the Committee considered revisions to programme 23 (Transnational corporations) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 23)).

Discussion

140. A number of delegations were of the view that the scope of the proposed revisions to subprogrammes 1 and 2 did not justify the proposed changes in the titles of those subprogrammes. Other delegations considered those changes to be compatible with the evolving approaches to transnational corporations, particularly in the context of the interest in attracting foreign direct investment.

141. A number of delegations suggested that a reference to Economic and Social Council resolutions 1992/34 and 1992/35 of 30 July 1992 be added to paragraph 23.19, as legislative authority for subprogramme 2.

142. A number of delegations were of the view that programme 23 duplicated activities programmed under programme 13 (International trade) and stressed that the Department of Economic and Social Development and the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development should fully coordinate the implementation of their activities under those programmes.

143. Some delegations stated that, in view of the recent developments in the United Nations, the references to a code of conduct contained in paragraphs 23.13 and 23.15 (a) were no longer relevant. Other delegations did not share that view.

144. One delegation suggested deleting the words "matters relating to" in the title of subprogramme 3.

Conclusions and recommendation

145. The Committee recommended approval of the proposed revisions to programme 23 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, with the following modification:

> In paragraph 23.25 (d), after "developing countries" insert "and countries in transition from central planning to a market economy".

Programme 24. Statistics

146. At its 38th meeting, on 14 September, the Committee considered revisions to programme 24 (Statistics) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 24)).

Conclusions and recommendations

147. The Committee recommended approval of the proposed revisions to programme 24 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, with the following modification:

> Paragraph 24.15: After the words "economies in transition" add the words "from central planning to a market economy".

Programme 28. International drug control

148. At its 42nd and 43rd meetings, on 16 September, the Committee considered programme 28 (International drug control) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 28)).

Discussion

149. A number of delegations found that the proposed revisions adequately reflected the new mandates given to the United Nations International Drug Control Programme.

150. One delegation felt that the plan should have included more information on how the United Nations International Drug Control Programme planned to fulfil its leading role in the area of international drug control.

151. A number of delegations referred to the importance of crop and income substitutes and to the needs of transit countries. Other delegations referred to specific requirements at the regional level, and to those of the African countries in particular.

152. One delegation stressed the importance of the reference to the illegal arms trade and terrorist practices in paragraph 28.27.

153. Another delegation recommended that, in subprogramme 8, paragraph 28.63 (c), the reference to table II should be deleted.

Conclusions and recommendations

154. The Committee recommended that this programme should be considered as a possible subject for future in-depth evaluation.

155. The Committee recommended approval of the revisions to programme 28 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 with the following modifications:

(a) In paragraph 28.7 of the proposed revisions, the third from the last sentence should read: "Support will be increased for regional cooperation, particularly initiatives to eliminate illicit cultivation through development of alternative income sources and integrated rural development";

(b) In paragraph 28.8 of the proposed revisions, in the third from the last line, after the words "assists Governments", insert "at their request";

(c) In paragraph 28.12, subprogramme 2 should be designated high priority;

(d) At the end of paragraph 28.21 (f) of the proposed revisions, insert the words "with the consent of Governments";

(e) In paragraph 28.21 (g) of the proposed revisions, after the word "crop", insert the words "substitution and";

(f) In paragraph 28.39, after "psychotropic substances" in the ninth line, add the following sentence: "In addition, emphasis shall be placed on integrated rural development programmes in accordance with existing mandates";

(g) In paragraph 28.40, at the end of the second sentence, add "taking into account the need for crop/income substitution and accessibility to international markets for substituted products";

(h) In paragraph 28.44, at the end of the second sentence, insert the words "and income substitution strategies".

Programme 30. Regional cooperation for development in Africa

156. At its 40th and 42nd meetings, on 15 and 16 September, the Committee considered revisions to programme 30 (Regional cooperation for development in Africa) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 30)/Rev.1).

Discussion

157. A number of delegations expressed the view that the programme narrative was too general and should have been more concrete as regards the actions to be undertaken.

158. A number of delegations felt that the proposed revisions overemphasized actions for promoting and supporting the development of appropriate institutions, while the need to strengthen existing institutions was not adequately reflected.

159. A number of delegations considered that the conclusions and recommendations of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) concerning the impact of the structural adjustment programmes in Africa should have been referred to in the revisions.

160. Many delegations felt that the social development issues in Africa, in particular crime and drug trafficking, did not receive sufficient attention. In their opinion, the relevant paragraphs of the existing narrative should be maintained.

161. One delegation suggested that the titles of subprogrammes 3, 4 and 8 should be modified to read, respectively, "Campaign against poverty and promotion of sustainable development", "Institutional strengthening" and "Development of infrastructures" in order to highlight the objectives to be achieved under those subprogrammes.

162. A number of delegations proposed the deletion of subparagraph 30.23 (f) of subprogramme 1 as it was too general.

163. Some delegations considered that, in view of the continuing dependence of African countries on export earnings, the importance of external trade for Africa should have received greater emphasis in subprogramme 2.

164. A number of delegations were of the view that the role of the creditor countries in finding a solution to the external debt problem of African countries should have been highlighted in subprogramme 1.

Conclusions and recommendations

165. The Committee recommended approval of the revisions to programme 30 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, with the following modifications:

(a) Paragraph 30.22: Replace the second sentence with the following: "Although many financial and monetary institutions have been created and are operational, Member States have not availed themselves extensively of the technical support and advisory services offered in this respect";

(b) Paragraph 30.26: The second sentence of subparagraph (a) should be a separate subparagraph (b); the remaining subparagraphs would be relettered accordingly;

(c) Paragraph 30.27: In the first sentence insert the words "and policies" after the word "objectives".

166. The Committee welcomed the new streamlined subprogramme structure.

167. The Committee recommended that subprogramme 9 (Women in development) be strengthened and designated high priority.

168. The Committee noted the vital role played by the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres of the Economic Commission for Africa in each African subregion, particularly in the areas of regional economic cooperation and integration.

Programme 32. Regional cooperation for development in Europe

169. At its 37th meeting, on 14 September, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to programme 13 (Regional cooperation for development in Europe) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 32)/Corr.1).

Discussion

170. A number of delegations were of the opinion that the scope and the title of the quarterly bulletin of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) entitled East-West Joint Ventures News should be modified in order to reflect better the major large changes that had taken place in the region in recent years.

171. Some delegations felt that ECE activities in connection with the republics of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics that had not become members of the Commonwealth of Independent States should be reflected in the programme.

Conclusions and recommendations

172. The Committee recommended the approval of the proposed revisions to programme 32 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.

Programme 33. Regional cooperation for development in Latin America and the Caribbean

173. At its 37th meeting, on 14 September, the Committee considered proposed revisions to programme 33 (Regional cooperation for development in Latin America and the Caribbean) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 33)/Add.1).

Conclusions and recommendations

174. The Committee recommended the approval of the proposed revisions to programme 33 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, with the following modification: the words in the second sentence of paragraph 33.98 between "of the 1980s" and "make it all" should be deleted.

Programme 36. International protection of and assistance to refugees

175. At its 38th meeting, on 14 September, the Committee considered proposed revisions to programme 36 (International protection of and assistance to refugees) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 36)).

Discussion

176. One delegation suggested that the fourth sentence of the text proposed to replace paragraph 36.41 be expanded to reflect the positive outcome of the implementation of the returnees programme to Viet Nam.

Conclusions and recommendations

177. The Committee recommended the approval of the proposed revisions to programme 36 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, with the following modification:

> In paragraph 36.45, after the words "South Africans", insert "and Afghans".

Programme 37. Emergency humanitarian assistance

178. At its 43rd meeting, on 16 September, the Committee considered revisions to programme 37 (Emergency humanitarian assistance) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 37)).

Discussion

179. A number of delegations considered that the role of non-governmental organizations had not been sufficiently emphasized, and stressed the importance of coordinating their contribution, as well as that of relevant regional and subregional organizations, to emergency humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

180. A number of delegations stressed the importance of activities related to the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, and the need to ensure that those activities were not duplicated elsewhere in the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat.

181. Delegations were also concerned that an excessive proportion of the resources available to the Decade would be used for administrative support costs, as they were of the view that such resources should be devoted principally to substantive activities.

Conclusions and recommendations

182. The Committee recommended approval of the revisions to programme 37 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, with the following modification: subprogramme 2 (Disaster prevention and preparedness) should be designated high priority.

Programme 38. Public information

183. At its 37th and 38th meetings, on 14 September, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to programme 38 (Public information) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 38)).

Discussion

184. A number of delegations expressed the view that the new functions proposed for transfer to programme 38 would significantly change the nature of the work carried out by the Department of Public Information and went beyond the title of the programme. Concern was expressed that the Department would not be able to absorb those functions within the related resources proposed for transfer and that there might be a negative impact on existing programmes. Other delegations welcomed the proposed consolidation of information functions and hoped that it would permit more effective delivery of programmes.

185. One delegation queried the apparent citation as a mandate in the proposed revision to paragraph 38.1 of the statement adopted by the Security Council at its first meeting at the level of Heads of State and Government on 31 January 1992 (S/23500).

186. Another delegation suggested that the proposed new paragraph 38.3 should be split, with the second and third sentences becoming a new paragraph 38.4. It was also suggested that the proposed new paragraph 38.4 (e) was similar to the existing paragraph 38.4 (d) and that the two could be combined.

187. A number of delegations emphasized the importance of the role of the United Nations information centres in spreading awareness of the role of the Organization, especially in the current rapidly changing world environment. Concern was expressed at the concentration of resources on a few centres in developed countries and it was suggested that resources from those centres should be redeployed to strengthen information centres in developing countries and countries undergoing the process of transition to a market economy.

188. A number of delegations queried the proposed role of the United Nations information centres in collecting information for dissemination at Headquarters and whether it fell within their mandate.

189. A number of delegations raised questions concerning the integration of field information functions between the centres and the United Nations Development Programme and one delegation wondered why this had not figured in the proposed revisions to the plan. The possibilities for increased efficiency and effectiveness were welcomed, but concern was expressed that the mandates and role of the centres should continue to be respected.

190. One delegation expressed concern that the functions included under the proposed new paragraphs 38.17 (m) to (q) risked duplicating activities of other departments, especially the Department of Political Affairs.

191. Another delegation welcomed the consolidation under that programme of servicing functions for the Publications Board and expressed the hope that the Board would continue to contribute to improvements in the content and implementation of the Organization's publications programme. Other delegations stressed the role of relevant intergovernmental organs in that respect, including the Committee on Conferences and the Committee on Information.

192. One delegation expressed concern at possible duplication between the Department of Public Information and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Public Affairs, especially with regard to activities related to the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations.

193. Another delegation suggested that activities related to collection and dissemination of information should be included in a separate new subprogramme.

Conclusions and recommendations

194. The Committee recommended that the institutional arrangements to discharge the functions transferred from the former Office for Research and the Collection of Information should be clarified to ensure full respect for the legislative mandates governing the role of the United Nations information centres.

195. With the above understanding the Committee recommended the approval of the revisions to programme 38 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.

Programme 45. Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and development

196. At its 35th, 36th and 37th meetings, on 11 and 14 September, the Committee considered revisions to programme 45 (Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and development) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 45)).

Discussion

197. A number of delegations supported the general thrust of the revisions to programme 45. A number of delegations were of the view that the commitments made by the African countries towards African economic recovery and development contained in the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s were not adequately reflected in the programme narrative. One delegation suggested that the economic progress achieved so far by several African countries should also be mentioned in the programme narrative.

198. A number of delegations raised questions about the establishment, functioning and funding of the high-level consultative group referred to in paragraph 45.10.

199. A number of delegations were of the view that the revisions proposed under paragraph 45.11 did not reflect the current situation and that the paragraph should be further revised.

200. A number of delegations suggested that the text of existing subparagraph (e) of paragraph 45.22 should be retained. One delegation suggested that the text of paragraph 45.22 should be revised further to reflect the provisions of the New Agenda.

Conclusions and recommendations

201. The Committee recommended approval of the proposed revisions to programme 45 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 with the following modifications:

(a) Paragraph 45.7: Add the following at the end of the paragraph: "The above broad objectives of the programme have their counterpart in the renewed responsibility and commitment entered into in the New Agenda by Africa, the overall goal of which is to achieve sustained and sustainable growth and development. In particular, African countries have committed themselves to:

"(i) Implementation of economic policies aimed at the transformation of the structure of their economies;

"(ii) Achievement of effective regional and subregional economic cooperation and integration by establishing the African Economic Community, promoting sectoral integration of economies and developing and maintaining reliable networks of agricultural, physical, industrial and institutional infrastructures;

"(iii) Intensification of the democratization process, full participation of people in development, respect of human rights and good governance;

"(iv) Creation of an enabling environment that attracts domestic and foreign direct investment;

"(v) Pursuit of agricultural and rural development policies and strategies to achieve food security;

"(vi) Intensification of efforts in human resources development and capacity-building and deliberate and systematic integration of population factors into the development process;

"(vii) Pursuit of action to arrest environmental degradation and enhance the scientific and technological capacities of the continent";

(b) Paragraph 45.10: Add the following at the end of the proposed new paragraph: "Responding to a recommendation of the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-first session, the Secretary-General has also established, within the Department of Economic and Social Development of the United Nations Secretariat, a separate and identifiable unit on Africa, headed by a Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries. This unit is the focal point on issues related to African economic recovery and development and, in particular, the implementation of the New Agenda. It will also have the specific task of servicing the high-level consultative group";

(c) Paragraph 45.11: At the end of the paragraph add the following sentence: "These measures taken to enhance the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 should be strengthened to facilitate coordination and implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s";

(d) Paragraph 45.20: Replace the text of the proposed new subparagraph (iv) of paragraph (d) with the following: "To undertake a study on the need for and the feasibility of establishing a diversification fund for Africa's commodities and to promote an agreement on this issue";

(e) New paragraph 45.26: Delete new paragraph 45.26 proposed for insertion after existing paragraph 45.25.

202. The Committee recommended that the recommendations of the high-level consultative group should be communicated to Member States for consultation before they were made public.

B. Outline of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995

203. The Committee, at its 22nd to 26th meetings, from 31 August to 2 September, considered the report of the Secretary-General containing the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 1994-1995 (A/47/358).

Discussion

204. In introducing the proposed outline, the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management stressed that the outline was not a budget or a summary budget, but an indication in order to facilitate the preparation and adoption of the programme budget. The outline as a budget tool was still in a developmental stage.

205. The Committee was informed that the additional priorities proposed in the document were closely linked to the priorities established by the General Assembly in resolutions 45/253 and 45/255 of 21 December 1990. A number of delegations considered that other priorities should have been included in the proposal. Some delegations considered that the priorities should be maintained as earlier established.

206. A number of delegations expressed concern about the apparent absence of significant change proposed in the budget outline. Concern was also expressed about the manageability of the total number of established posts. Some delegations also considered that the outline should have included the impact of the first phase of the restructuring of the Secretariat.

207. A number of delegations emphasized the importance of proper redeployment to enhance the effectiveness of the Organization.

208. Some delegations inquired about the reasons for the increase in the indicative estimates for the Department of Public Information.

209. With regard to the decrease in the appropriation for common support services for the biennium 1994-1995, one delegation, while recognizing the necessity for redeployment, wished to emphasize the importance of maintaining a high standard of services.

210. With regard to the $US 28 million proposed as the budgeting upfront of future preventive diplomacy and peacemaking missions, the Secretariat informed the Committee that it considered this provision to be a budgeting of perennials whose expenditures were subject to approval of the related mandates by the General Assembly. A number of delegations supported that approach, while others questioned whether the usual arrangements for unforeseen and extraordinary expenditure would not suffice.

211. One delegation proposed that CPC should resume its work on priority-setting, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 44/194, section II, of 21 December 1989.

212. A number of delegations emphasized that the concept of zero growth had not been endorsed by the General Assembly and that the rate of growth and the preliminary estimate were purely indicative.

213. A number of delegations stressed the importance of zero real growth dynamically applied. They recalled the decisions previously taken by the General Assembly as well as the situation in other organizations of the United Nations system.

214. A number of delegations endorsed the statement of the Secretary-General that peace and security, on the one hand, and economic and social development on the other, were so closely interlinked as to be indivisible.

215. Some delegations emphasized the need to clarify the relationship between priorities and the allocation of resources.

216. A number of delegations stated that the overall level of the budget and the real growth rate should be considered, bearing in mind the magnitude of extrabudgetary financing.

Conclusions and recommendations

217. The Committee felt that future outlines should provide more information on the programmatic assumptions underlying the proposals, as well as in general terms, and on the proposed direction of the programmatic content of the activities.

218. The Committee examined the outline using as a framework the four aspects listed in paragraph 1 of the proposal of the Secretary-General (A/47/358).

Estimate of resources

219. The Committee noted the preliminary estimate proposed by the Secretary-General in paragraph 4 of his report.

220. The Committee recommended, in accordance with its mandate, that the General Assembly should consider the preliminary estimate of resources submitted by the Secretary-General as a basis for a decision, taking into account the following:

(a) The decision of the General Assembly with respect to revised estimates reflecting actions taken for the restructuring of the Secretariat, which continues to be implemented, in accordance with Assembly resolution 46/232 of 2 March 1992 and other relevant resolutions, including those that may be adopted at the forty-seventh session;

(b) The Committee took note of the Secretary-General's statement (A/47/358, para. 7) that significant changes in staffing levels were not projected for the biennium 1994-1995, and that additional requirements would be met through redeployments in the context of the preparation of the proposed programme budget. The Committee stressed that programme delivery and the efficient and effective implementation of all mandates by the Secretariat should not be affected;

(c) The Committee stressed that the resources proposed should accommodate the mandates and the proposed programme of activities during the biennium, and noted the assurance given by the Secretariat in that regard. In

that connection, the Committee noted that the projected impact in 1994-1995 of existing or anticipated mandates from the General Assembly had been taken into account in the preparation of the outline (A/47/358, para. 6 (a));

(d) The Committee noted that the estimate of resources was presented at 1992-1993 initial prices and did not include the effects of inflation and currency fluctuations recosted at 1992-1993 revised rates, which would be available at the end of 1992;

(e) The recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), as required by the General Assembly in resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, to be submitted in accordance with its mandate;

(f) The Committee noted that the Secretary-General's preliminary estimates (A/47/358) were of a global and indicative nature and that the breakdown of estimates for 1994-1995 by major programme was only illustrative;

(g) The Committee stressed that the budget outline, while still in a developmental stage, played an important role with regard to the predictability of resources for the forthcoming budget and early involvement of Member States, as called for by the General Assembly in resolution 41/213.

221. The Committee recommended that the treatment of perennial activities referred to in paragraph 6 of the proposed programme budget outline be considered further by the relevant bodies and that the preliminary estimate of resources and the rate of growth be recalculated, as appropriate.

222. The Committee further recommended that ACABQ should keep under review the question of procedures for the commitment and use of such perennial expenditures.

Priorities

223. The Committee noted the proposals of the Secretary-General in paragraphs 10 to 12 of his report (A/47/358) and recommended that they be considered further by the General Assembly in the light of paragraph 12 of Assembly resolution 45/253, which includes the overall priorities reflecting broad trends as derived from the mandates of the legislative organs, contained in the introduction to the medium-term plan, as well as the views expressed by Member States thereon and, in particular, in paragraph 5 of Assembly resolution 45/255.

Growth

224. The Committee noted that, compared with the projected revised estimate for the biennium 1992-1993, growth was calculated at 0.2 per cent. That rate could change subject to the provisions of paragraph 220 (a) to (g) above.

225. The Committee was informed that, under the current methodology, the rate of real growth would be higher. The Committee believed that the considerations contained in paragraph 220 (a) to (g) could contribute to reducing real growth as calculated under the existing methodology, and invited the Secretary-General to take this into account when preparing his proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995. That programme budget should also recognize the importance for the Organization to fulfil with maximum

efficiency and cost-effectiveness all mandates entrusted to it by Member States and to respond to changing circumstances, including the new challenges it faces.

226. The Committee requested further clarification of the method of calculation of real growth. In that connection, the Committee considered that ACABQ would study the new methodology, including the concept and implementation of capital expenditure. The Committee also considered that additional methodological changes, such as the question of delayed impact, should be further examined by ACABQ and the General Assembly.

Contingency Fund

227. The Committee endorsed the size of the Contingency Fund, expressed as the percentage proposed by the Secretary-General, and recommended that the working of the Fund be kept under review.

Other issues

228. The Committee noted the significance of staff assessment and capital expenditures in the total preliminary estimate and requested that they be considered on the basis of information to be provided by the Secretariat and by the competent bodies of the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, including the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and, as appropriate, the International Civil Service Commission.

C. Methodology for the preparation of the programme budget

229. At its 24th to 28th meetings, on 1 to 3 September, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on the prototype of a new budget format (A/C.5/47/3).

230. The Committee recalled the recommendation it made on the prototype at its thirty-first session. 7/

Discussion

231. Some delegations called for a study on the proper way of presenting capital expenditures in the programme budget, while other delegations called for a review of the structure of the medium-term plan and the programme budget.

232. A number of delegations considered the seminar on the methodology of the programme budget successful and the output useful.

233. The Committee was informed that section 19 (United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)) was chosen as an example for the prototype because of its typicality.

234. A number of delegations cautioned against an increased amount of data and information and warned of the danger of micromanagement and the potential increase in the size of part two of the programme budget. Other delegations considered detailed information necessary.

235. A number of delegations were of the view that an indication of low priorities should be eliminated.

236. While a number of delegations called for the consolidation of budget sections, others cautioned against that attempt.

237. One delegation suggested that the provision for staff assessment and income therefrom be deleted from the programme budget.

238. A number of delegations drew attention to the Financial Regulations and Rules concerning the transfer of resources between sections of the budget (ST/SGB/Financial Rules/Rev.3 (1985), rule 104.4).

Conclusions and recommendations

239. With regard to the proposals set forth in the report of the Secretary-General, the Committee recommended that the General Assembly should approve the changes in the presentation of the programme narrative. The Committee also approved methodological changes, such as the treatment of non-recurrent expenditures, capital expenditure and calculation of real rates of growth, on the understanding that further information on inflation, currency fluctuations and related technical issues would be provided by the Secretariat to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the General Assembly.

240. The Committee recommended that the programme budget should be presented in two parts; the Secretariat, in preparing that document, should emphasize simplicity and readability.

241. The Committee welcomed the proposal to highlight, in the first part of the programme budget, changes in programmes, including new and terminated activities; the Committee trusted that such changes would also be appropriately mentioned in the second part of the document presenting estimates by section. In general, the Committee recommended that the quality and exactness of the narrative be improved.

242. The Committee concurred with attempts at rationalizing the number and presentation of tables and annexes which accompany the text of the proposed programme budget.

243. The Committee emphasized the relationship between the budget and the medium-term plan. It noted that an improved programme budget from a programmatic viewpoint was still not a replacement for the medium-term plan. The Committee also emphasized the link between the budget and the outline.

244. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly should give due attention to issues such as the relationship between mandates, programmes, budget sections and the structure of the Secretariat.

245. The Committee recognized the need for the direct responsibility of programme managers in the implementation of mandated programmes. It emphasized that responsibility and accountability, as well as improvements in the techniques and methodology for evaluation and budget and programme

performance reports, were essential for progress in the implementation of the programme budget and in the capacity of Member States to assess accurately the implementation of their mandates and decisions.

246. The Committee welcomed efforts at presenting in a uniform manner regular budget and extrabudgetary resources; the Committee acknowledged, however, the difficulties involved in forecasting levels of extrabudgetary resources and expressed the hope that improvements would be forthcoming.

247. The Committee welcomed the effort to rationalize tables in the budget wherever possible.

D. Questions related to the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993

E. Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

General

248. At its 29th to 32nd meetings, on 4, 8 and 9 September, the Committee considered the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on revised estimates as requested by the General Assembly in resolutions 46/185 of 20 December 1991 and 46/232 of 2 March 1992 (A/C.5/47/2 and Corr.1);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General on procedures and norms for the creation, suppression, reclassification, conversion and redeployment of posts (A/C.5/47/4);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on section 15 (UNCTAD) relating to the 13 posts formerly attached to the subprogramme on trade among countries having different economic and social systems (A/C.5/47/7).

249. The Committee was informed by the Secretariat that the need for more flexibility in the use of the staff resources of the Organization had to be seen in the context of a number of factors, including the persistent financial difficulties of the United Nations and the increase in the overall demand for the human resources of the Secretariat. It was indicated in the report on revised estimates that a dynamic policy for filling vacant posts would be warranted "by the fact that the staff resources of the Organization are, in many domains of activity, stretched to the limit, including in relation to the dramatic increase in peace-keeping operations" (A/C.5/47/2 and Corr.1, para. 19). In this regard, it was noted that, on 15 August 1992, 235 Professional staff members were assigned to peace-keeping operations, in addition to 222 persons recruited from outside the Secretariat for those operations. Those 235 staff members represented approximately 6 per cent of the established Professional posts financed from the regular budget. Moreover, also on 15 August 1992, 1,394 staff members in the General Service and related categories were assigned to those operations.

250. With regard to the review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations, the commitment of the Secretary-General to reform had been reaffirmed. Reporting to Member States on reform was considered part of his mandate. Yet, at the present time, the Secretary-General did not intend to submit a specific report to the General Assembly under that agenda item, since the restructuring exercise, which implied the ongoing review of efficiency, was still under way. The Committee was informed by the Secretariat that an explanatory note thereon would be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session. The Assembly would, moreover, consider the report on workload analysis.

Discussion

251. A number of delegations stated that the report on revised estimates, apart from the financial implications of the first phase of restructuring, should have contained more information on its programmatic aspects in conformity with resolution 46/232. A number of delegations supported the initiatives of the Secretary-General and the steps undertaken to reorganize the Secretariat in order to improve its effectiveness in the implementation of mandates obtained from the legislative bodies. They stated that the restructuring exercise was the prerogative of the Secretary-General in his capacity as Chief Administrative Officer of the Organization. A number of delegations suggested that the Secretary-General should be allowed more discretionary powers with regard to the organization of the Secretariat, comparable to the practice in other organizations of the United Nations family.

252. Some delegations expressed concern that the delivery of programmes might be affected by the restructuring, particularly in the economic and social sectors, and that the redeployment of staff might result in a certain disequilibrium between units of the Secretariat and even have certain demoralizing effects on staff members. A number of delegations stressed their expectation that the Secretary-General's decision to suspend external recruitment would be called off as soon as possible so as to permit the inflow of younger people and additional talent, as well as to rectify existing inequalities in the geographical distribution of posts that the "freeze" tended to petrify.

253. Many delegations regretted the lack of a report reviewing the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations, the submission of which to the Committee on Programme and Coordination and the General Assembly had been requested by the Committee in its conclusions at the thirty-first session, which had been endorsed by the Assembly at its forty-sixth session.

254. A number of delegations expressed support for the reduction in high-level posts. While a number of delegations expressed appreciation of the accompanying reduction in terms of resulting savings, other delegations stated that budgetary reductions should not be conceived as a primary goal of the restructuring exercise.

255. While some delegations agreed with the statement that the delays in payment of assessments constituted one of the main causes for the Secretariat's lack of effectiveness, others disagreed with that statement.

256. One delegation proposed that a new publication be prepared by the United Nations containing a world economic and social survey.

257. A number of delegations stated that, as part of the restructuring process, staffing of the Centre for Human Rights should be strengthened. Other delegations stressed that staffing of the Department of Economic and Social Development should not suffer in the process.

258. A number of delegations considered that flexibility in human resources management needed to be enhanced. Other delegations expressed concern about the flexibility proposed for the Secretary-General in the management of posts. A number of delegations expressed the view that the need for more flexibility in the management of vacant posts had not been proved, and that the Secretariat already had at its disposal procedures which allowed a rapid response to changing requirements. Other delegations proposed that the degree of flexibility in human resource management be regulated through consultations between Member States and the Secretariat.

259. A number of delegations expressed the view that the restructuring process should be extended to middle- and lower-level posts so as to bring about a sharply delineated division of responsibilities within the Secretariat in carrying out its activities in order to get rid of those of marginal significance or those that were unproductive and thus increase the overall efficiency of the Organization. A number of delegations emphasized the need for continued effort to identify such activities with a view to their eventual elimination.

260. With regard to the forthcoming phases of the restructuring process, a number of delegations pointed out that the effects of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development had yet to be incorporated in the exercise, and that the review of the relationship between the Department of Economic and Social Development and the regional commissions had not yet been completed. A number of delegations stressed that the assumptions on the programmatic impact of the related restructuring should be made transparent.

Conclusions and recommendations

261. The Committee took note of the revised estimates for the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 and recommended that the General Assembly should endorse the proposed reduction in the number of high-level posts. The Committee stressed that that reduction should enhance the decision-making capacity of the Secretariat while streamlining its structures, as well as contribute to the coherent implementation of all mandates of the Organization.

262. The Committee regretted the lack of information on the programmatic aspects of the revised estimates and recommended that the General Assembly should be provided with such information. The Committee also recommended that the Secretary-General should make available to it and to the Assembly the relevant information on the various qualitative aspects of the restructuring process. Such reporting could take place in the context of the implementation of the relevant provisions of Assembly resolutions 41/213 and 46/232.

263. The Committee expressed the view that the proposals of the Secretary-General concerning the treatment of vacancies called for in-depth consideration by the bodies concerned. The Committee stressed that the issue of greater flexibility in the use of resources appropriated by the General Assembly had to be examined in the context of the existing financial rules and regulations of the Organization and bearing in mind the need for more transparency in the information being provided to Member States, including the information in the proposed programme budget and in the reports on programme performance and budget performance. Issues such as the use of workload analysis and the development of evaluation techniques were of importance for the capacity of Member States to exercise control over the implementation of their decisions on programme and budgetary matters.

264. The Committee confirmed that the restructuring exercise should continue to be carried out by the Secretary-General as Chief Administrative Officer of the Organization, in conformity with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 46/232, and that, in its view, consultations between Member States and the Secretary-General on the restructuring process were essential.

265. The Committee took note of the note by the Secretary-General on procedures and norms for the creation, suppression, reclassification, conversion and redeployment of posts (A/C.5/47/4), but expressed disappointment concerning the lack of substance therein.

266. The Committee also took note of the proposal by the Secretary-General concerning 13 posts formerly attached to the UNCTAD subprogramme on trade among countries having different economic and social systems (see A/C.5/47/7), and recommended that the General Assembly should approve that proposal, on the understanding that a final decision thereon would be tal within the framework of the programme budget for the forthcoming biennium.

267. Furthermore, the Committee took note of the proposals of the Secretary-General with regard to the review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations.

III. COORDINATION QUESTIONS

A. Question of the timing and selection of a topic for the twenty-seventh series of Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination

268. At its 28th and 29th meetings, on 3 and 4 September, the Committee considered preparations for the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination, as well as the timing and selection of a topic for the twenty-seventh series of Joint Meetings.

Discussion

269. A number of delegations suggested as a possible topic the functioning and role of the Administrative Committee on Coordination. Another delegation suggested that, if the Joint Meetings were to take place in October 1992, a possible topic might be the preparations for the World Summit for Social Development.

Conclusions and recommendations

270. The Committee expressed regret that it had not been in a position at its session in May to decide on the topic and timing of the twenty-seventh series of Joint Meetings because, inter alia, it had been informed at that time that the second regular session of 1992 of the Administrative Committee on Coordination had not been planned.

271. The Committee was of the view that adequate preparation for the Joint Meetings was necessary.

272. The Committee had before it four topics suggested by the Administrative Committee on Coordination for the Joint Meetings: (a) commodity problems and their consequences for development; (b) results of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and their implications for the United Nations system; (c) follow-up to the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development; and (d) investments in human development.

273. The Committee felt that, for the Joint Meetings to engage in an effective and fruitful discussion, only one topic should be selected.

274. The Committee decided to propose to the Administrative Committee on Coordination that the twenty-seventh series of Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination be held in the spring of 1993 to discuss the results of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and their implications for the United Nations system.

B. System-wide Plan of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development

275. At its 42nd and 43rd meetings, on 16 September, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on the System-wide Plan of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (E/AC.51/1992/5).

General

276. The Committee was informed about the coordination mechanisms at Headquarters and at the field level. It was felt that existing coordination mechanisms should be used for the coherent implementation of the Plan.

Discussion

277. A number of delegations welcomed the report, as it was the first time that United Nations activities related to Africa had been presented in the context of a system-wide plan. A number of delegations were of the view that that was a first step towards the development of a real system-wide plan. The view was also expressed that CPC should have been clearer with respect to its targeted users in its request for the preparation of the Plan.

278. Many delegations stressed that the Plan of Action should be seen as a dynamic and flexible instrument for agencies of the United Nations system in carrying out activities for African economic recovery and development.

279. A number of delegations, in referring to previous plans of action, stressed the importance of the implementation of the System-wide Plan of Action and its use as a guideline by the agencies of the United Nations system.

280. While a number of delegations were of the view that the Plan of Action was mainly a compilation of activities, the general impression was that it would provide a useful framework for action by the United Nations system.

281. A number of delegations were of the view that, since African economic recovery was one of the five priority areas of the medium-term plan that were identified by the General Assembly in resolutions 45/253 and 45/255, adequate resources should be made available for the implementation and follow-up of the Plan of Action.

282. A number of delegations emphasized the need for African responsibilities in respect of democratization, accountability and respect for human rights to be included in the Plan.

283. Many delegations wished to be advised of the outcome of the current initiative to review the Tropical Forestry Action Programme (TFAP) and its implication for the process of launching and implementing new strategies and action programmes for sustainable forestry development in Africa, and of the steps which FAO was taking to coordinate its activities with the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), given that organisation's role in sustainable forest management.

Conclusions and recommendations

284. The Committee expressed concern about the late issue of the report, which, combined with its length, put unwelcome and unnecessary pressure on the Committee in carrying out its work.

285. The Committee noted that the Plan had the structure of a compilation of activities and considered it to be a first step towards a more integrated approach as its implementation developed. The Committee recommended that the link between the System-wide Plan of Action, the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and the United Nations medium-term plan be clarified.

286. The Committee expressed disappointment at the minimal reference to the role of women in development and recommended that that be redressed to include, in particular, access of women to the decision-making level.

287. The Committee recommended that, in accordance with the objective of raising global awareness of the critical socio-economic and environmental situation in Africa, the Secretary-General should launch, at the earliest possible time, the System-wide Plan of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development and the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s.

288. The Committee recommended that the priorities of the System-wide Plan be used as guidelines for the activities of the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system related to African development.

289. It also recommended that the Secretary-General should call upon all relevant executive heads of United Nations agencies and bodies to accord high priority to the implementation of the Plan.

290. The Committee emphasized the role of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) and its Chairman in the follow-up and coordinated implementation of the Plan. The Committee recommended that the United Nations Funds and Programmes, the specialized agencies and the Bretton Woods institutions should intensify specific programmes and activities related to Africa in their work programmes. The Committee urged the specialized agencies to continue to monitor the situation of resources available for Africa.

291. The Committee recommended that the Plan be monitored and updated in the framework of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force for African Economic Recovery and Development. At the intergovernmental level, the Committee decided to keep the implementation of the Plan under review in view of the fact that the follow-up and implementation of the Plan needed to be discussed with ACC at a later stage.

292. The Committee recommended that, since the Plan represented the contribution of the United Nations system to the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, in accordance with paragraph 39 of section II of the annex to General Assembly resolution 46/151 of 18 December 1991, the process of updating it should be carried out after each review of the implementation of the New Agenda by the General Assembly.

293. The Committee recommended that revisions be submitted for consideration by CPC in 1994, 1996 and thereafter as may be decided by CPC.

294. The Committee also recommended that, in view of the importance of the Plan and the unsuccessful outcome of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990, the Secretary-General should play a leading role in its implementation in his capacity as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Coordination.

Notes

1/ To be issued in final form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/47/6/Rev.1).

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/45/6/Rev.1), vol. I.

3/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8, vol. I; resolution I, annex I.

4/ Ibid.

5/ Ibid., annex II.

6/ Ibid., annexes I and II.

7/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/46/16), para. 53.

ANNEX I

Agenda for the resumed thirty-second session of the Committee

1. Organization of work.

2. Programme questions:

   (a) Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997;

   (b) Outline of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995;

   (c) Methodology for the preparation of the programme budget;

   (d) Questions related to the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

3. Coordination questions:

   (a) Question of the timing and selection of a topic for the twenty-seventh series of Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination;

   (b) System-wide Plan of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development.

4. Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations.

5. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its resumed thirty-second session.

ANNEX II

List of documents before the Committee at its resumed thirty-second session

A/47/6 a/	Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997
General considerations	
Programme 1	Good offices and peacemaking, peace-keeping, research and the collection of information
Programme 2	Political and Security Council Affairs
Programme 3	Political and General Assembly Affairs and Secretariat Services
Programme 4	Special political questions, trusteeship and decolonization
Programme 5	Question of Palestine
Programme 6	Elimination of apartheid
Programme 7	Disarmament
Programme 8	Peaceful uses of outer space
Programme 12	Global development issues and policies
Programme 13	Trade and development
Programme 14 and Add.1	Trade expansion, export promotion and service sector development
Programme 15	Least developed, land-locked and island developing countries, and special programmes
Programme 16 and Corr.1	Environment
Programme 17	Science and technology for sustainable development
Programme 18	Population
Programme 19	Natural resources
Programme 20	Energy
Programme 21	Public administration and finance
Programme 22	Human settlements

Programme 23	Transnational corporations
Programme 24	Statistics
Programme 28	International drug control
Programme 30/Rev.1	Regional cooperation for development in Africa
Programme 32 and Corr.1	Regional cooperation for development in Europe
Programme 33 and Add.1	Regional cooperation for development in Latin America and the Caribbean
Programme 36	International protection of and assistance to refugees
Programme 37	Disaster relief and mitigation, and special emergency programmes
Programme 38	Public information
Programme 45	Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and development
A/47/358	Report of the Secretary-General on the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 1994-1995
A/C.5/47/2	Report of the Secretary-General containing revised estimates as requested by the General Assembly in resolutions 46/185 and 46/232
A/C.5/47/3	Report of the Secretary-General containing a prototype of a new budget format
A/C.5/47/4	Note by the Secretary-General on procedures and norms for the creation, suppression, reclassification, conversion and redeployment of posts
A/C.5/47/7	Report of the Secretary-General concerning 13 posts formerly attached to the subprogramme on trade among countries having different economic and social systems
E/AC.51/1992/1	Provisional agenda
E/AC.51/1992/5	Report of the Secretary-General on the System-wide Plan of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development
E/AC.51/1992/L.2/Rev.2	Note by the Secretariat on the status of documentation

E/AC.51/1992/L.5 and Add.1-36	Draft report of the Committee on its resumed thirty-second session
E/AC.51/1992/CRP.3/Rev.1	Proposed programme of work of the Committee
E/AC.51/1992/CRP.4	Consideration of the proposed revisions to programme 11 (Overall issues and policies, including coordination) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997
E/AC.51/1992/INF/2	List of delegations

Notes

a/ To be issued in final form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/47/6/Rev.1).

ANNEX III

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with regulation 4.8 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation*

A

1. At its thirty-second session, held in New York from 11 to 22 May and from 31 August to 18 September 1992, the Committee for Programme and Coordination made several recommendations that would give rise to programme budget implications. In accordance with regulation 4.8 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (ST/SGB/PPBME Rules/1 (1987)), those implications and the recommendations to which they relate are presented below.

I. PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997

A. Prototype of new format to the medium-term plan and a technical seminar on the prototype

2. In paragraph 21 of the report of the Committee on the work of the second part of its thirty-second session (part two above), the Committee recommended that a prototype of a possible new format of the medium-term plan should be presented to the Committee at its thirty-third session. The prototype should take into account the relevant conclusions of the seminar on the prototype of a new budget document and address, in particular, issues concerning the manageability of the drafting and revision process, including the questions of preparation and submission of documentation and the review of programme planning documents by subsidiary intergovernmental machinery.

3. In paragraph 22 of the report, the Committee further recommended that an ad hoc technical seminar of experts should be convened in the field of programme planning of the United Nations, without additional cost to the Organization, to assist the Secretariat in the drafting of the proposal.

4. The activities described in paragraphs 2 and 3 above would fall under subprogramme 5 of programme 42 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997. The proposed prototype would address problems referred to in paragraphs 42.11, 42.34, 42.38 (a) and (d) and 42.39 of the programme.

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* Originally issued in mimeographed form under the symbols A/47/16 (Part I and Part II)/Add.1 and 2.

5. Should the General Assembly approve the recommendations of the Committee mentioned in paragraphs 1 and 2 above, two additional activities would be included under subprogramme 5 of programme 42, Programme planning, budget and finance, initially approved by the General Assembly under Section 33 C, to read as follows:

Under the cluster of activities "Parliamentary Services":

c. "Report of the Secretary-General on the prototype of a new medium-term plan format."

Under the cluster of activities, "3", "Programme planning, budgeting and monitoring":

d. "Planning, organization and substantive servicing of a technical seminar to review the new format of the medium-term plan."

6. The Secretary-General intends to convene such a seminar during the first quarter of 1993. Its modalities remain to be determined.

B. Revisions to the medium-term plan 1992-1997

7. In the paragraphs relating to conclusions and recommendations under Parts B and A of its reports on the first part and second part of its thirty-second session, respectively, the Committee makes a number of observations and recommendations related to the Secretary-General's proposed revisions to the medium-term plan. Should they be approved by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, the revisions to the medium-term plan, as modified by the recommendations of the Committee, will guide the implementation of the programme during the balance of the current biennium, and will constitute the basis for the formulation of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

II. COORDINATION QUESTIONS

8. In paragraph 274 concerning coordination of its report on the second part of its thirty-second session, the Committee decided to propose to the Administrative Committee on Coordination that the twenty-seventh series of Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination be held in the spring of 1993 to discuss the results of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and their implications for the United Nations system. The venue of the twenty-seventh series of Joint Meetings has yet to be decided. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/64 of 27 July 1988, the Joint Meetings should normally be held in New York in conjunction with the autumn session of the Administrative Committee on Coordination. Since it is anticipated that the spring session of the Administrative Committee on Coordination will be held in Rome, it has been suggested that the twenty-seventh series of Joint Meetings should also be held in Rome.

9. The General Assembly, in section I of its resolution 46/185 C of 20 December 1991, inter alia, decided that:

"starting in 1992, the travel expenses and subsistence allowances of the members of the Committee for Programme and Coordination for attendance at the joint meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination should be authorized under the regular budget of the Organization, on the understanding that there will be no increase in the total appropriation of the relevant part of section 1 and that claims related to the regular sessions of the Committee for Programme and Coordination will have first priority."

Accordingly, subject to the provisions of the resolution, resources would be required to meet the travel and subsistence costs of members of the Committee for Programme and Coordination attending the Joint Meetings, either in New York or Rome.

III. RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS AT FULL COST

10. On the basis of past experience with regular sessions of the Committee for Programme and Coordination in New York, it is assumed that, were the Joint Meetings to be held in New York, 10 of the members would not avail themselves of their entitlements for reimbursement of travel and subsistence costs because some of them are based in New York, or for other reasons. On the other hand, were the Joint Meetings to be held in Rome, it is assumed that all members would avail themselves of their travel entitlements. In either case, it is assumed that the Joint Meetings will last for two days and be preceded by a three-day meeting of members of the Committee for Programme and Coordination. It is understood that, were the meetings held in Rome, it would be at the invitation of FAO and no additional conference-servicing costs would arise. Based on those factors, the geographical pattern of membership, applicable subsistence rates and different average distances and air fares, the estimated travel costs of holding the twenty-seventh series of Joint Meetings in New York or Rome are as follows:

	New York	Rome
Travel	86 400	90 100
Subsistence (five days)	28 600	60 000
	115 000	150 100

On that basis, holding the Joint Meetings in Rome rather than New York would involve an estimated increase in cost of $35,100.

A. Potential for absorption

11. Under the terms of General Assembly resolution 46/185 C, section I, the Secretariat would only be in a position to meet travel and subsistence costs of members of the Committee for Programme and Coordination attending the Joint Meetings with the Administrative Committee on Coordination if such costs could be absorbed within the appropriation for travel of representatives to the Committee for Programme and Coordination under section 1, after providing for the travel and subsistence costs of members to regular sessions of the

Committee. Current indications are that this would not be possible in 1992-1993. Commitments for travel costs of members to the two parts of the thirty-second session of the Committee for Programme and Coordination slightly exceed the appropriation for that purpose in 1992. It is unlikely that the relevant appropriation for 1993 would cover the travel costs of Committee members to the meetings of the Committee, or to one or two series of Joint Meetings with the Administrative Committee on Coordination, regardless of the venue.

B. Summary

12. Since the provisions of General Assembly 46/185 C, section I, in effect make payment of the travel costs of members of the Committee for Programme and Coordination to the annual series of Joint Meetings with the Administrative Committee on Coordination contingent upon sufficient resources being available in the relevant appropriation after provision for travel to the regular sessions, it is estimated that it would not be possible for travel costs with respect to attendance at the twenty-seventh series of the Joint Meetings by members of the Committee for Programme and Coordination to be met under the terms of General Assembly resolution 46/185 C, section I. Under the terms of that same resolution, no additional appropriations would be required under Section 1 of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

B

1. In paragraphs 8 to 12 above, the Secretary-General outlined the programme budget implications arising from implementation of the decision contained in paragraph 274 of the Committee's report on the second part of its thirty-second session (part two above). In that paragraph, the Committee decided to propose to the Administrative Committee on Coordination that the twenty-seventh series of Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination be held in the spring of 1993 to discuss the results of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and their implications for the United Nations system. At the time the earlier statement was prepared the venue of the spring session of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, and hence the twenty-seventh series of Joint Meetings, had yet to be decided. It has since been confirmed that the Administrative Committee on Coordination will meet at Rome in April 1993. Accordingly, if the twenty-seventh series of Joint Meetings were to follow the spring session of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, this would involve it being held for two days in April 1993 at Rome, preceded by a three-day meeting of members of the Committee for Programme and Coordination.

2. In paragraph 10 of the earlier statement it was indicated that the Secretariat's understanding was that, were the meetings to be held at Rome, it would be at the invitation of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and no additional conference-servicing costs would arise. The Secretariat has now been informed by FAO that, while it would be happy to make its facilities available for the meetings, since it does not have a large permanent conference-servicing facility, the Secretariat's understanding was not correct and that, were the twenty-seventh series of

Joint Meetings to be held at Rome, this would require reimbursement by the United Nations of related costs of $135,000, broken down as follows:

CPC meeting - three days (interpretation into six languages)	United States dollars	
Rental of meeting room and offices	5 400	
Cost of interpretation	43 450	
Other expenses (staff, overtime, general operating expenses etc.)	27 100	
Total	75 950	
Rounded to		76 000
Joint CPC/ACC meeting - two days (interpretation into six languages)		
Rental of meeting room and offices	3 600	
Cost of interpretation	35 820	
Other expenses (staff, overtime, general operating expenses etc.)	19 840	
Total	59 260	
Rounded to		59 000

3. As indicated in paragraphs 11 and 12 of the earlier statement (section A above), were the twenty-seventh series of Joint Meetings to be held at Rome, no additional appropriation would be requested in respect of the costs arising, other than conference-servicing costs. In the light of the new information from FAO, however, were the twenty-seventh series of Joint Meetings to be held at Rome, additional requirements of $135,000 would arise to meet the cost of reimbursements to FAO of related conference-servicing costs. The programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 includes no provision for such costs and it is not anticipated that they could be absorbed within existing appropriations.

4. Accordingly, should the General Assembly decide that the twenty-seventh series of Joint Meetings should be held at Rome in April 1993, it would be necessary to request an additional appropriation of $135,000 under section 1 of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

5. It will be recalled that, under the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the programme budget. Under the same procedure, if additional expenditures are proposed that exceed resources available from the contingency fund, those activities can be implemented only

through redeployment of resources from low-priority areas or modifications of projected activities. Otherwise, such additional activities will have to be deferred until a later biennium. A consolidated statement of all programme budget implications and revised estimates will be submitted to the Assembly towards the end of its current session.

6. No activities are proposed for termination, deferral, curtailment or modification in the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 in order to finance reimbursements to FAO for conference-servicing costs arising from the holding of the twenty-seventh series of Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination at Rome. In the event, therefore, that such resources are not available from the contingency fund, those activities would have to be postponed, as provided for in the criteria for the use of the contingency fund adopted by the General Assembly in the annex to its resolution 42/211 of 21 December 1987.

Summary

7. As indicated above, an additional appropriation of $135,000 would be required under section 1, Overall policy-making, direction and coordination, of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, in connection with the holding of the twenty-seventh series of Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination at Rome during April 1993.

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